



## **SBI PO Current Affairs Magazine**

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*All the best. You have come so far. You will do good!*

## News related to Finance and Banking

**The Haryana Government** on 2 July 2016 announced that it would develop **an industrial township in the state at an expense of 5 billion dollar**. The new industrial township will spread in over 1500 acres of land in Sohna and Manesar areas of Gurgaon.

Hotels aggregator **OYO** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)** to develop tourism-related hospitality ecosystem in the state.

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** on 30 June 2016 notified rules for **calculating Fair Market Value (FMV) of assets located in India** with regard to indirect transfer provisions as prescribed in Section 9(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961. Under section 9 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, any income arising from transfer of any share of or interest in a foreign company or entity that derives its value substantially from the assets located in India, is deemed to accrue or arise in India.

**Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi **cleared the proposal of Axis Bank for increasing foreign shareholding limit from existing 62 per cent to 74 per cent**. The proposal would lead to foreign investment of about Rs 12,973 crore.

**SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card)**, the third largest card issuer, launched a premium credit card by the name **ELITE**. Launched on the **MasterCard World platform**, the SBI Card ELITE has bundled several privileges and benefits for the high networth individuals--premium category customers.

**India's first commercial dispute resolution centre and commercial court** was inaugurated on 2 July 2016 at **Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.

India's largest incubator **T-Hub** signed an MoU with **Aeries Technology Group**, a global services company offering technology, BPM and outsourcing solutions, for **"fault-tolerant server"** and software technology for **start-ups to host and test their applications**.

**Jawaharlal Nehru Port** on 1 July 2016 **became the first port in India to implement logistics data tagging of containers**. The implementation of the logistics data bank tagging of containers will help importers/exporters track their goods in transit through logistics data bank service.

The Union Cabinet on 5 July 2016 approved the **Interest Subvention Scheme for farmers for the year 2016- 17**. The Government has **assigned a sum of 18276 crore rupees for the purpose**. This scheme will help farmers getting short term crop loan payable within **one year up to 3 lakhs rupees at only 4% per annum**.

**Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL)** on 5 July 2016 acquired global clothing brand **Forever 21** in the Indian market for 26 million US dollars.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5 July 2016 gave **in-principle approval for setting up a Major port at Enayam near Colachel in Tamil Nadu**. The Enayam project will cost around **27000 crore rupees** and will be undertaken in three phases. The cabinet cleared an expenditure of **6575 crore rupees for phase one of the project**.

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** on 1 July 2016 launched **SBI Mingle**, *a social media banking platform for Facebook and Twitter users*. The platform was launched by SBI Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya, on the occasion of 61st State Bank Day that is observed on 1 July every year.

**SIDBI** entered into a partnership with private sector lender **Yes Bank** to *guarantee 75% of loans of up to Rs 15 crore extended to energy efficiency projects under a World Bank initiative*. A memorandum of understanding was signed between SIDBI and Yes Bank under the **Partial Risk Sharing Facility (PRSF)** for financing energy efficiency projects programme sponsored by the World Bank.

**In a first-of-its-kind move in the country, Kerala has introduced a 'fat tax' on the consumption of junk food** items like pizzas and burgers sold through branded restaurants. The newly-elected LDF government imposed **14.5% tax on branded restaurants selling items like tacos, pizzas, burgers, sandwiches, among others**.

The **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** on 7 July 2016 unveiled **India's first Centre of Excellence focused on Internet of Things (CoE- IoT) at its Startup Warehouse in Bengaluru**. The centre was launched in a bid to encourage start-ups to come up with tech solutions centred on Internet of Things (IoT).

**Rajasthan** in the first week of July 2016 *became the first state in the country to introduce minimum wages for part time workers*. The Labour Department of Rajasthan has also issued a notification in this regard.

Search Giant **Google** on 6 July 2016 acquired **Moodstocks**, a startup based out of Paris that develops machine-learning based image recognition technology for smartphones.

Private sector lender **IDFC Bank** bought South-India based microfinance lender **Grama Vidiyal Micro Finance** for an undisclosed amount. This is a first of its kind transaction where a bank has taken over a microfinance institution (MFI) and made it a subsidiary.

**State Bank of India (SBI)** in the second week of July 2016 **signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE)**. The MoU was signed **to promote innovation by start-ups in the financial sector**. The deal also aims to help evaluate start-ups operating out of SINE or those being promoted by SINE for early stage funding within the bank's norms. **SINE is IIT Bombay's technology business incubator**.

**Go Air** — the country's third largest low cost airline — signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **French aircraft manufacturer Airbus** for an order of **72 A320 aircraft** at the Farnborough International Airshow.

Full service carrier **Vistara** and leading private sector lender **Axis Bank** entered into a partnership to launch co-branded premium credit cards. While Axis Bank already has a similar tie-up with the German carrier Lufthansa, this is first of its kind with a domestic carrier for it.

**India and Bangladesh** on 12 July 2016 **signed a landmark deal for the construction of Rampal Power Station**, a 1320 megawatt coal fired power plant. The Rampal Power Station is the biggest project under bilateral cooperation.

The Union Cabinet on 13 July 2016 **approved the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) with an outlay of 12000 crore rupees** to impart skilling to one crore people over the next four years (2016-2020). PMKVY will impart fresh training to **60 lakh youths and certify skills of 40 lakh persons acquired non-formally** under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). The target allocation between fresh trainings and RPL will be flexible and interchangeable depending on functional and operational requirements.

**Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$100 million loan agreement** to strengthen key irrigation and drainage system and improve water management in the Vennar sub-basin of **the Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu**.

Union Government on 12 July 2016 **constituted a high-level committee to review the minimum support price (MSP) and bonus for pulses**. The committee will be **headed by Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian**. It has been asked to submit its report within two weeks.

The Union Government on 12 July 2016 **notified the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016**. The government also operationalised some of provisions of the Act, giving a legal shape to UIDAI.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 13 July 2016 approved the **disinvestment of 15% paid up equity** of **National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC)**. At present, Union Government holds 90 percent shareholding of the corporation (i.e. 54 crore share).

The Union Cabinet on 13 July 2016 approved the revival of defunct **Fertilizer Units in Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni**.

**The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on 14 July 2016 **constituted an inter regulatory Working Group (WG)** to study the entire gamut of **regulatory issues relating to Fin Tech (financial technology) and Digital Banking in India**. It will view the growing significance of Fin Tech innovations and their interactions with the financial sector as well as the financial sector entities. The 13-member working group will be headed by **Sudarshan Sen**, the executive director of RBI. It has been asked to submit its report within six months from the date of its first meeting.

The Union Government on 14 July 2016 **revised the time schedule for making payments under the Income Declaration Scheme 2016**. As per the revised schedule, a minimum amount of 25 percent of the tax, surcharge and penalty can be paid **by 30 November 2016** and further amount of 25 percent by 31 March 2017. The balance amount can be paid on or before 30 September 2017.

**The Supreme Court-constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) on black money** on 14 July 2016 submitted its fifth report to the apex court. The SIT was **headed by retired Justice M B Shah**.

**The SIT in its fifth report recommended the following:**

- **Cash transactions:** It has **recommended ban on cash transactions above 3 lakh rupees in a day**. It recommended enacting a law to declare such transactions as illegal and punishable.
- **Cash holding:** It also suggested capping the cash holding of an industry or individual at 15 lakh rupees. In case any person or industry required holding more cash, it may obtain necessary permission from the Commissioner of Income Tax of the area.

**Tata Advanced System (TASL)** and **Bell Helicopter**, a Textron Company on 14 July 2016 signed an agreement to work together in support of India's aviation and defense modernization initiatives. The agreement was inked with an emphasis on 'Make in India'.

The government **provided Rs. 22,915 crore capital to 13 PSU banks including SBI, PNB and IOB to enhance their lending operations and enable them to raise more money from the market.** This is the first tranche of capital infusion for the fiscal and more funds would be provided in future depending upon the performance of PSU banks, a Finance Ministry statement said. Out of the Rs. 22,915 crore, State Bank of India (SBI) received Rs. 7,575 crore followed by Indian Overseas Bank (Rs. 3,101 crore) and Punjab National Bank (Rs. 2,816 crore).

The **Indian government** signed a three-point bilateral agreement with the **US government** aiming to harness new technologies in the hydrocarbon sector.

**The Netherlands** and **Uttar Pradesh** on 14 July 2016 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to **set up a skill development centre to help farmers.**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on 18 July 2016 signed seven **Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers.** Some of the agreements also have a Rollback provision as well.

Japan's **Softbank** on 18 July 2016 agreed to acquire **ARM Holdings**, the U.K. based semiconductor firm, in a deal worth more than 32 billion US dollar.

**State Bank of India (SBI)**, the country's largest lender, as part of its ongoing stressed asset resolution process, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Brookfield Asset Management Inc** to collaborate on investments in stressed assets by forming a joint venture. SBI and Brookfield propose to form a joint venture (JV), whereby Brookfield will commit approximately Rs. 7,000 crore and SBI up to 5 per cent of total investments into stressed assets.

**Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** and the country's largest public sector bank, **State Bank of India (SBI)**, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to hammer out a detailed plan for promotion of rail ticketing activities, including internet ticketing and unreserved ticketing system.

US technology giant **Cisco** said that it has have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of **Jharkhand to enhance the IT skills of students of Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics across the State.**

**The Odisha government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **World Trade Centre (WTC) to promote and strengthen export activities.** Odisha Small Industries Corporation (OSIC) of the state government signed the MoU with WTC, Mumbai.

**The NITI Aayog** on 19 July 2016 signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with **Intel India to start the Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL)** initiative as a part of its flagship programme **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).** The aim of setting up Atal Tinkering Laboratories is to build relevant skill sets among youngsters and to provide access to technology that will enable solutions.

**Federal Bank** has signed an agreement with **Reliance Jio Money** for one-click payment service. Reliance Jio money is a wallet application that will be launched soon for mobile devices where Federal bank will enable a direct payment option for its customers.

The Union Cabinet on 20 July 2016 approved a proposal to introduce amendments to the **Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2015** in Parliament.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 20 July 2016 gave its approval for installation of **Ghatampur Thermal Power Project (GTPS)** in Uttar Pradesh of 1980 MW capacity through a Joint Venture Company.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 20 July 2016 approved the incorporation of **Sagarmala Development Company (SDC)** under the Companies Act, 2013. It will be under the administrative control of the Ministry of Shipping. SDC will be developed with an initial **Authorized Share Capital of 1000 Crore rupees** and a Subscribed Share Capital of 90 Crore rupees.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 20 July 2016 approved construction of **a new dry dock within Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**. The dock at CSL will be developed at an estimated cost of 1799 crore rupees.

The government cleared a proposal to set up the **India Post payments bank** with **a corpus of Rs.800 crore** and has plans to have 650 branches operational by September 2017.

The union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved an **investment of Rs 3,770 crore for development of the first phase of the Chennai Metro Rail project**. The 9.051 km corridor between Washermanpet and Wimconagar will be executed by Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL), the existing special purpose vehicle (SPV) of the centre and the state government with equal share of equity.

The **Central Statistical Office (CSO)** on 31 May 2016 released the **provisional estimates of national GDP for 2015-16**. It pegged GDP growth at 7.9 percent in Quarter 4 of 2015-16 and **7.6 percent in the whole of 2015-16**.

The **Government of India** and the **World Bank** on 31 May 2016 **signed a 9.2 million US dollar grant agreement under the World Bank-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Programme for the Efficient and Sustainable City Bus Service Project**.

**India** and **Morocco** on 31 May 2016 launched the **India-Morocco Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IMCCI)** in Rabat, Morocco.

The **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** Government on 31 May 2016 approved the **Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Varanasi Metro rail project**. The DPR will now be sent to the Union government for approval.

**The Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme 2016 came into effect on 1 June 2016**. The scheme was incorporated as Chapter X of the Finance Act, 2016. The declarations under this Scheme may be made on or before the 31 December 2016 in respect of tax arrears & specified tax.

**Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Ltd (GIFTCL)** and **GIFT SEZ Ltd (GIFT SEZ)**, announced the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the **Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)**.



**HDFC ERGO General Insurance** arm of mortgage lender HDFC has **acquired L&T General Insurance for Rs 551 crore**, the first such consolidation in India's crowded general insurance sector having 27 players.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 1 June 2016 gave its **approval for a new broad gauge line between Mau Station of North Eastern Railway and Tarighat Terminal station of East Central Railway**. The total length of this new broad gauge line will be 51 kilometers. The estimated cost of the project is 1765.92 crore and expected completion cost is 2109.07 crore rupees with 5 percent escalation per annum.

**India** and **Tunisia** on 2 June 2016 signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **for co-operation in Information Technology and promotion of traditional handicrafts**.

**India** on 2 June 2016 announced **its plan to double the investment in Clean Energy Research in next five years**. At present, India is investing 72 million US dollars in Clean Energy Research and it seeks to double it to 145 million dollars.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 June 2016 approved for **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Kharif Crops of 2016-17 season**. The prices will come into effect from effective from 1 October 2016. The higher MSPs would increase investment and production through assured remunerative prices to farmers.

**Axis Bank** raised **\$500 million at the London Stock Exchange** after it **launched India's first internationally-listed certified green bond** to finance climate change solutions around the world.

**India and Qatar** on 5 June 2016 **signed seven agreements** in various fields including assistance in custom matters, skill development and recognition of qualifications and health.

#### **The inked MoUs/Agreements include**

1. Agreement on assistance in Customs Matters
2. MoU on cooperation in the exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, terrorism-financing and related crimes
3. MoU on participation of Qatari institutional investors in Infrastructure projects in India
4. MoU for cooperation in Skill Development and Recognition of Qualifications
5. MoU on cooperation in Tourism
6. MoU for cooperation in the field of Health The First Executive Programme for
7. MoU in the field of Youth and Sports

**India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed **a \$120 million loan pact to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha**. The soft loan is the second tranche of a \$157.5 million financing facility under the Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water Management Investment Program.

The **Delhi Government** on 6 June 2016 announced implementation of its solar policy. The policy aims at making the **national capital a solar city with installation of 1 GW solar power capacity by 2020**. This target is proposed to double it to 2 GW during further next five years.

The **United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)** and the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** are on *a mission to sensitise industries about the use of solar thermal technologies in heating and cooling applications.*

**India** and **the US** announced the setting up of *two financial assistance programmes worth \$60 million for supporting India's much-needed clean energy initiatives* including in solar power and other renewables.

**State Bank of India** has *signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Jain Farm Fresh Foods Ltd (a subsidiary of Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd)* to help farmers associated with the latter to avail of finance against receivables due from the company.

Software major **Infosys** Ltd would provide *its core banking solution Finacle to e-commerce platform Paytm* for its payments bank business.

Multilateral lending agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has *approved a \$100 million (around Rs 660 crore) loan* to strengthen a key irrigation system and improve water management in the Vennar sub-basin of **Cauvery Delta in Tamil Nadu**.

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Union Government** on 3 June 2016 *signed the Loan Agreement for 200 million US dollars to upgrade 176 Kilometres of State roads in Jharkhand.*

**State Bank of India (SBI)** and Spain's **CaixaBank** have inked pact to *provide loans to Indo-Spanish joint ventures and local enterprises*. SBI and CaixaBank have signed a memorandum of agreement to enhance business synergies.

**Star Health Insurance** and **Bank of India** entered into *a corporate agency agreement to market the insurer's products across the bank's branches in the entire country*. This tie-up will enable Star Health to leverage Bank of India's network of all branches and huge customer base across the country.

**India** on 8 June 2016 *signed a Europe-led scheme that seeks to clampdown on tax evasion and corruption by committing to automatically exchange information on beneficial ownership.*

The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Ltd.** on 5 June 2016 *signed a MoU with the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) to facilitate investment in Indian infrastructure sector.*

**National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)** on 9 June 2016 inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the **AP Food Processing Society of Andhra Pradesh** Government to establish **Smart Agribusiness Platform Networks of Andhra Pradesh (SAPNAP)**. These networks will strengthen the agribusiness and food processing sector by focusing on creation of enabling ecosystem for accelerated growth of agribusiness by involving all the stakeholders.

**DCB Bank** *launched Bengaluru's first ATM that accepts Aadhaar number and Aadhaar fingerprint (biometric) instead of ATM/Debit Card and PIN to dispense cash.* The "cardless and PIN less" ATM was launched by former Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India, Nandan Nilekani. In April 2016, the Bank pilot launched India's first aadhaar based ATM in Mumbai. This was followed by launch of Aadhaar based ATM in Odisha and Punjab.

Technology giant **Microsoft** will acquire professional networking platform **LinkedIn** in an allcash *transaction valued at \$26.2 billion.*



**Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL)** has signed an agreement to acquire **Welspun Renewables Energy Ltd (WREL)** for **Rs. 9,249 crore**. Touted as "the largest ever transaction in the renewable energy space in India," the acquisition will help Tata Power to up its clean energy production to 2300 megawatts (MW).

International health care group **Bupa** has completed a transaction to increase its stake in health insurance joint venture **Max Bupa** from existing 26 per cent to 49 per cent.

**India Post** on 10 June 2016 *launched a logo and tagline design contest for the soon to be set up India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) on the MyGov website*. Union Cabinet gave its approval 1 June 2016 to set up the IPPB under the Department of Posts to further financial inclusion in India.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju along with MOS Dr Mahesh Sharma on 11 June 2016 presided over a presentation made by DGCA with regard to Passenger Centric Initiatives. The Ministry is committed to ensure that flying for most Indians becomes a pleasant experience along with the growth of the Airline industry. Accordingly, it proposed certain amendments to the existing **Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs)**.

**The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on 13 June 2016 issued the guidelines on the **Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets**. The guidelines were issued with an aim to further strengthen the lenders' ability to deal with stressed assets and to put real assets back on track.

**Singapore Telecommunications (Singtel)** and **Bharti Airtel** have *joined hands to deliver high-speed, secure data network coverage to Asia-Pacific, West Asia, Africa, Europe and the US*.

**Businessman Vijay Mallya** was on 14 June 2016 **declared as a Proclaimed Offender by a special court for the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** in Mumbai in a loan diversion case. A person is termed as a proclaimed offender in a criminal investigation if the court believes that the accused has absconded or is concealing himself, so that the warrant cannot be executed.

**The Union Ministry of Railways** on 14 June 2016 signed a Joint Venture (JV) Agreement with **Odisha Government**. The agreement was signed by VP Dudeja on behalf of Railways Ministry and Sanjay Rastogi, Pr Secretary of Transport, Odisha Government. The MoU envisages formation of a Joint Venture company having 51 percent stake of the State Government and 49 percent stake of Ministry of Railways.

**Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** on 15 June 2016 launched Scheme for setting up of **1000 MW Wind Power Project connected to Central Transmission Utility (CTU)** transmission network.

The Union Cabinet on 15 June 2016 gave its approval for Indian membership of the **International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP) consortium**.

**Maharashtra Government appointed taskforce headed by agriculture expert Kishore Tiwari**, on 12 June 2016 submitted its report to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The taskforce appointed to address agrarian issues has suggested a five-point agenda to bring **at least 80 percent of farmers into the institutional credit net**.

As a step to support start-ups in the financial technology (Fintech) space, country's largest lender State Bank of India has set up an Rs 200 crore fund. The fund is named as **'IT Innovation Start-up Fund'**.

The Union Cabinet on 15 June 2016 approved the **Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016**. It was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 11 May 2016. The bill seeks to improve ease of doing business and thereby, attract investments into the economy by fast tracking recovery of bad loans.

Primarily, the bill seeks to amend four existing legislations, namely, -

- i. Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002
- ii. Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (RDDBFI) Act, 1993
- iii. Indian Stamp Act, 1899
- iv. Depositories Act, 1996

Ministry of Railways on 15 June 2016 launched two policies related to **Parcel Leasing and Parcel Cargo Train Express**. These policies were launched by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu in a programme held in New Delhi. These policies were launched as part of Rail Budget announcement of the fiscal year 2016-17. It seeks to make the policy related to Parcel more liberalized and customer friendly.

**Electronic insurance will become mandatory for annual premium equal to or above Rs 10,000 (single/annual premium) in life insurance policies.** Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) in its Issuance of e-Insurance Policies Regulations, 2016 said that these norms will come into force from October 1, 2016.

**Anand Desai led Expert committee** set up to examine **the Specific Relief Act, 1963 on 20 June 2016** submitted its report to Union Law & Justice Minister DV Sadananda Gowda. In its report the committee has recommended modifications in the Specific Relief Act, 1963, which will help in **ensuring the ease of doing business**.

**Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) and India Ports Global Private Limited (IPGPL)** on 1 June 2016 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project**. The MoU has been signed for implementation of the following three additional works, which are independent of the on-going works and are estimated to cost 476 crore rupees.

**Max Financial Services and Max Life** have **entered into an agreement for a merger with HDFC Life**. In a statement to the stock exchanges, Max Financial Services and Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) said that their respective boards have approved entering into a confidentiality, exclusivity and standstill agreement to evaluate a potential combination through a merger.

**The Reserve Bank simplified the process of registration of new NBFCs by reducing the application form and the checklist of documents from the existing set of 45 documents to about eight.** The processing of cases for Type I - NBFC-ND applicants would be on fast track mode. As these companies will not have access to public fund and will not have customer interface, they will be subjected to less intensive scrutiny/due diligence.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16 June 2016 suggested a mantra, **RAPID**, to tax officials while inaugurating Rajasva Gyan Sangam, a two-day Annual Conference of Senior Tax Administrators in New Delhi. The mantra, RAPID means **R for Revenue, A for Accountability, P for Probity, I for Information and D for Digitization**.

The Union Cabinet on 22 June 2016 approved the establishment of **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)**. The establishment of the fund is in tune with **the Start up India Action Plan** that was unveiled in January 2016 to boost start up ecosystem in the country.

#### **Features of Fund of Funds for Startups**

- **Beneficiaries:** It will be utilised for contribution to various Alternative Investment Funds (AIF), registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) which would extend funding support to Startups.
- **Resource allocation:** It has a corpus of 10000 crore rupees which shall be built up over the 14th (2015-20) and 15th Finance Commission (2020-25) cycles subject to progress of the scheme and availability of funds.
- **An amount of 500 crore rupees** has already been provided to the corpus of FFS in 2015-16 and 600 crore earmarked in the 2016-17.
- The 10000 crore rupees corpus could potentially be the nucleus for catalyzing 60000 crore rupees of equity investment and twice as much debt investment.

The NITI Aayog-appointed **Tarun Khanna Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship** opined that India has the potential to build about 2500 highly scalable businesses in the next 10 years.

**IT services provider Tech Mahindra** said it has acquired **The BIO Agency (BIO)**. It is a UKbased agency that offers digital services to global clients and engages with their customers. Tech Mahindra acquired the British firm for 45 million pounds (Rs 445 crore).

**India and South Korea** have launched **Korea Plus**, a special platform to promote and facilitate Korean Investments in India. Korea Plus will act as a mediator in arranging meetings, assisting in public relations and research/evaluation and provide information and counselling to Korean companies investing in India.

**Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** have joined hands to set up a facility in **Hyderabad** to co-produce Boeing AH-64 Apache helicopter fuselages and other aerostructures.

The Union Government on 20 June 2016 radically changed the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy** regime with the objective of providing major impetus to employment and job creation in India.

#### **Radical Changes in FDI Policy regime**

- **Radical Changes for promoting Food Products manufactured/produced in India:** To permit 100 percent FDI under government approval route for trading in respect of food products manufactured in India.
- **FDI in Defence Sector up to 100%:** FDI beyond 49% has been permitted through government approval route, in cases resulting in access to modern technology. FDI limit for defence sector has also been made applicable to Manufacturing of Small Arms and Ammunitions covered under Arms Act, 1959.
- **Review of Entry Routes in Broadcasting Carriage Services:** 100 percent FDI allowed under automatic route for Teleports, Direct to Home, Cable Networks and Mobile TV. Moreover, infusion of FDI beyond 49% in a company not seeking permission from Ministry will result in change in the ownership pattern.

- **Pharmaceutical Sector:** 100% FDI under automatic route in Greenfield pharma, FDI up to 100% under government approval in Brownfield pharma and 74% FDI under automatic route in Brownfield pharmaceuticals.
- **Civil Aviation Sector:** To permit 100% FDI under automatic route in Brownfield Airport projects. In Scheduled Air Transport Service and regional Air Transport Service, it has now been decided to raise FDI limit to 100%. For NRIs, 100% FDI will continue to be allowed under automatic route.
- **Private Security Agencies:** FDI up to 49% is now permitted under automatic route in this sector and FDI beyond 49% and up to 74% would be permitted with government approval route.
- **Establishment of branch office, liaison office or project office:** No approval from Reserve Bank of India or separate security clearance would be required in cases where FIPB approval or license/permission by the concerned Ministry has already been granted.
- **Animal Husbandry:** It has been decided to do away with the requirement of controlled conditions for FDI in Animal Husbandry, Pisciculture, Aquaculture and Apiculture.
- **Single Brand Retail Trading:** It has been decided to relax local sourcing norms up to three years and a relaxed sourcing regime for entities undertaking Single Brand Retail Trading of products having cutting edge technology.

India's largest software exporter **TCS** formed a strategic partnership with **Sernova Financial** to deliver its next generation cloud-based derivative post trade processing service to enable banks to effectively maintain compliance with the changing global regulatory environment while reducing risk.

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal on 16 June 2016 launched the **URJA Mobile application**. The URJA, which stands for **Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan**, was launched on the on the side-lines of Conference of Power Ministers at Cansaulim in South Goa.

Essar Steel (ESIL) has introduced bullet proof steel and *become the first dedicated Indian company with this specialised steel.*

**Microsoft Accelerator in India** and **TCS Co-Innovation Network (COIN)** announced a joint initiative to create a platform that provides a boost to the Indian startup ecosystem.

**Asian Development Bank (ADB)** said it **has approved \$500 million (approximately Rs 3,350 crore) loan for constructing a bridge across Ganga**. Once built, the 9.8 km road bridge in Bihar will be *country's longest river bridge* and would provide vital transport links between the northern and southern parts of the state and also with neighbouring country Nepal,

Union Ministry of Urban Development on 22 June 2016 approved the setting up **of District Level Advisory and Monitoring Committees** to promote people centric planning and execution of new urban development schemes.

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 June 2016 approved the sale of all available spectrum in the country. *This is the largest-ever spectrum auction in the country.* The move could fetch 5.5 lakh crore rupees for the exchequer, going by the reserve price. This amount is five times higher than the revenue of 1.1 lakh rupees that government earned through the auction conducted in 2015.

**State-run Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** said that it has commissioned two units of 14 Megawatts each at **Salma Hydro Electric Project in Afghanistan**.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 23 June 2016 released the “**Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018**”. The vision reiterates the aims of building a “less-cash” society by encouraging greater use of electronic payments by all sections. The objective is to ensure that a robust payments infrastructure is established in the country to increase accessibility, availability, interoperability and security.

### **Contours of Vision-2018**

The broad contours of Vision-2018 revolve around **5Cs – Coverage, Convenience, Confidence, Convergence and Cost**.

- Coverage: Enabling wider access to a variety of electronic payment services
- Convenience: Enhancing user experience through ease of use and of products and processes
- Confidence: Promoting integrity of systems, security of operations and customer protection
- Convergence: Ensuring interoperability across service providers
- Cost: Making services cost effective for users as well as service providers

**Ola**, the mobile transportation app, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Haryana** government to create over 10,000 entrepreneurs in the state.

**The World Bank Board** on 21 June 2016 approved the 63 million US dollar project, **Tejaswini: Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Jharkhand**. Tejaswini is the first World Bank project in India that is solely focused on the welfare of adolescent girls and young women.

**The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors** on 24 June 2016 **approved 201.50 million US dollars for Technical Education Quality Improvement Project III (TEQIP III) in India** to improve the quality of engineering education in select Indian states.

**Axis Bank-country's third largest private sector lender**- in a bid to ride on the digital wave has decided to **open an innovation lab where it will tie up with financial technology start-ups**. This innovation hub that is located in **Bangalore** will focus on curating start-ups and working with them to help them develop the value propositions and the bank will look at absorbing their technology.

**Union Cabinet on 29 June 2016 approved the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission**. The salaries and arrears, effective from 1 January 2016, will be made applicable now. The commission recommended 23.55 percent hike in pay and allowances of government employees. One Rank One Pension proposed for civilian government employees on line of OROP for armed forces.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) H R Khan on 24 June 2016 announced that it will soon set up a committee to study the use of **Blockchain technology**. The technology will be used to reduce the use of paper currency. The Blockchain database consists of blocks that hold time-stamped batches of valid transactions. Then, digital records are put together into blocks and then leaped together cryptographically and chronologically into a chain using complex mathematical algorithms. The encryption process is termed as 'hashing'.

**HDFC Bank** launched **SM@Bank**, touted as India's full fledged banking service for small and medium enterprises (SME). The new entity would allow clients access full bouquet of services instantly on 24x7 basis over personal computers or mobile phones.

**State Bank of India**, the country's largest public sector bank, has **launched a mobile payment solution that will enable customers to make digital payments at offline stores by scanning a QR (quick response) code on their smartphones**. The service has been launched in Bengaluru with a sizable number of merchants and will soon expand into other cities. Dubbed **mVisa**, the solution is a card-less way for customers to pay for goods at offline stores, and will be available to all SBI credit card, debit card and net banking users. The solution which is bank agnostic will be accessible to customers through the company's SBI Anywhere app.

**New Development Bank (NDB)**, headed by K V Kamath, has chosen **ICICI Bank**, which he used to head, for **its first tie-up with any bank in India to explore opportunities around bond issuances**, co-financing, treasury management and human resources.

**3D design company Autodesk** on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Government of Maharashtra** to provide advanced design technology to - **local MSMEs from the manufacturing sector in the state**.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the **Reserve Bank** and the **Central Bank of United Arab Emirates (UAE)** on co-operation on currency swap agreement.

Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy on 4 May 2016 launched '**Contract Labour Payment Management System**' - a portal of Coal India Limited (CIL).

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 4 May 2016 gave its approval for development of two laning with formation of four lane of **Shimla Bypass (Kaithlighat to Shimla section) on National Highway-22 in Himachal Pradesh**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 May 2016 launched the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. It will benefit the poor, especially the women. The scheme aims to provide cooking gas connections to five crore below-poverty-line beneficiaries over the next three years.

#### **Salient features of PMUY**

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) **approved 8000 crore rupees** for the next 3 years starting from financial year 2016-17.
- **PM Ujjwala Yojana will provide 5 crore LPG connections to BPL Families.**
- FM had announced about the scheme in his 2016-17.Budget Speech with a budgetary provision of 2000 crore rupees

**Fast-growing Yes Bank and the old private sector Federal Bank have been the first ones off the block to hit Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (Gift)** and are hoping to make the most of easy regulations, low operational costs and the opportunity to raise dollar-denominated funds.

**Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu** on 1 May 2016 launched **Chandranna Bima Yojana in Vijayawada**. The Yojna launched on the occasion of May Day is an insurance scheme for the working class people.



**India** and **New Zealand** on 1 May 2016 signed an **Air Services Agreement paving the way for introduction of direct flights between the two countries.**

Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu on 3 May 2016 launched e-enabled application, **Project Management & Information System (PMIS)** at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi. The application will be used for proper monitoring of all the Railway projects throughout the country. Indian Railways have over 600 major projects of network expansion and modernization **costing around 4.5 lakh crore rupees.**

**Aviva Plc** has acquired additional 23 per cent stake in stake in **Aviva Life Insurance**, from Dabur Invest Corp for Rs 940 crore. This was one of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals approved by the government on March 7. Following this acquisition, **Aviva Plc's stake in the joint venture has increased to 49 per cent.**

**The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has retained its growth forecast for **India this year at 7.5%**, largely driven by private consumption even as weak exports and sluggish credit growth weigh on the economy.

**State-run Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** announced the commissioning of a 600-Mw coalbased thermal power plant '**Jhabua Thermal Power Project**' in Madhya Pradesh.

**National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** on 5 May 2016 **signed a partnership agreement with Facebook to build a product design initiative in India.** The agreement focuses on assisting the innovation ecosystem by helping product based companies to build solutions in key sectors where technology can play a transformational role.

**Indian Railways (IR)** on 4 May 2016 **announced the creation of Non-Fare Revenue Directorate to carry out advertisements in rail coaches, along the track and near stations.** The decision to create a directorate was taken to increase the revenue substantially from non-tariff sources.

Union inter-ministerial Board of Approval (BoA) on 28 April 2016 **approved the proposal of Infosys to set up an IT/ITeS special economic zone (SEZ) in Bengaluru in an area spread over 4 hectares.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 28 April 2016 released **consultation paper on Peer to Peer (P2P) lending** to classify it as **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).** The suggestions or comments on the Paper may be sent to Department of Non-Banking Regulation, RBI on or before 31 May 2016.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 5 May 2016 released **Draft Guidelines for on tap Licensing of Universal Banks in the Private Sector.** It also sought views and comments on the draft guidelines from banks, non-banking financial institutions, industrial houses, other institutions and the public at large latest by 30 June 2016.

#### **Eligible Promoters:**

- i. Existing non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) that are controlled by residents and have a **successful track record for at least 10 years.**
- ii. The residents, individuals or professionals who have 10 years of banking and finance experience.
- iii. Residents owned entities or groups in the private sector which have a successful track record **for at least 10 years.**

**Corporate structure:**

- i. **The requirement of Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC)** is not mandatory for individual promoters or standalone promoting or converting entities that do not have other group entities.
- ii. Individual promoters or promoting entities or converting entities that have other group entities, shall set up the bank only through an NOFHC.

**Minimum capital requirement:** The initial minimum paid-up voting **equity capital for a bank shall be 5 billion rupees**. Thereafter, the bank shall have a minimum net worth of 5 billion rupees at all times.

**Foreign shareholding in the bank:** The foreign shareholding in the bank would be as per the existing foreign direct investment (FDI) policy. The aggregate foreign investment limit is 74 per cent.

**The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)** under Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry **permitted 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) into asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) through automatic route.**

**The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on 9 May 2016 announced **that it will shortly issue 1000 rupees denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi Series – 2005** with **the inset letter 'R'** in both the number panels. The banknotes of 1000 rupees banknotes will have six angular bleed lines in four sets of **1-2-2-1 lines** on the obverse in both, the upper left and right hand edge of the banknotes. These will facilitate identification of these notes by visually impaired persons. The existing identification mark (diamond shape in 1000 rupees) near the left edge of the banknote has been enlarged.

**India** and **Mauritius** on 10 May 2016 **signed a protocol on taxation at Port Louis, Mauritius**. The protocol provides for amending the convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 10 May 2016 **cancelled the certificate of registration of the four NonBanking Financial Companies (NBFCs).**

**The NBFCs whose certificate of registration were cancelled include**

- M/s Neelanjali Engineering Private Limited
- M/s Novoflex Tradecom Private Limited
- M/s Guide Investments and Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd
- M/s Enol Ventures Private Limited

At a time when most Indian banks profitability has been marred by high levels of bad loans and provisions, **Kotak Mahindra Bank's** earnings reflect the rise of yet another superior class bank despite the challenging times. The private lender which **recently toppled ICICI Bank to emerge as India's 2nd most valued private bank** reported a 32% rise in its net profit for the quarter ended March 2016.

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹ 2 lakh on Jalgaon District Co-operative Bank Ltd.

**ICICI Bank** launched **the country's first contactless business credit card in association with Jet Airways** for small and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their employees. Christened '**Jet Airways ICICI Bank**

**Business Advantage Card**, India's largest private sector bank, in a statement said, this co-branded credit card will help customers to save on their business expenses.

Swiss Re launched a corporate accelerator, '**InsurTech**', to help startups develop business solutions for the insurance sector in India.

**India** and five other nations, including **China and Israel**, signed a pact for automatic exchange of information on tax issues and develop new tools and standards for tackling tax base erosion and evasion. The signing ceremony took place Beijing. Other countries which have already signed the pact include Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Italy and the UK.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 May 2016 gave its approval to **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), Abu Dhabi**.

**PayU India and Paytm** have got amongst the first in-principle approvals for operating as a **Bharat Bill Payments Operating Unit (BBPOU)**, allowing them to offer interoperable bill payment service to consumers. Consumers will be able to pay all their bills anytime and anywhere under the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), and the companies will provide platforms to offer these services.

Singaporean lender **DBS Bank** is creating its biggest technology hub outside of headquarters, in **Hyderabad** where the company plans to have over 1,500 headcount.

The board of **World Bank** has approved a \$625 million loan to support the central government's programme to generate electricity from rooftop solar power plants. The board also approved a co-financing loan of \$120 million on concessional terms and a \$5 million grant from the Climate Investment Fund's Clean Technology Fund.

The Union Government in the second week of May 2016 decided to replace 5-year plans with 15-year vision documents. The long-term perspective plans will be prepared by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog beginning from 2017-18 financial year.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) on May 14, 2016 commissioned a 660 MW supercritical thermal unit at **Mouda Super Thermal Power Station (STPS)** at Mouda in Nagpur district of Maharashtra.

**Income Declaration Scheme** of the Union Finance Ministry will start from 1 June 2016 and will remain in force till 30 September 2016. The scheme is also called four month window for declaring black money.

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari on 16 May 2016 launched three initiatives for best practices in road transport sector. These three innovative IT initiatives are: **INFRACON**, **ePACE** and up-Scaled **INAM PRO**.

**Carmaker Maruti Suzuki** and **Uttar Pradesh government** has signed an MOU for imparting training to 500 youths under the skill development mission.

State-run power producer **NTPC Limited** on 16 May 2016 signed a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with state-run miner **Coal India limited** to foray into the **Fertilizer Sector and revive plants of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL)**.

**The State Bank of India (SBI)** on 17 May 2016 informed the BSE that it is seeking in-principle sanction of the Union Government to enter into negotiation with its **5 subsidiaries and Bharatiya Mahila Bank for acquisition**.

**HDFC Bank Ltd.** on 16 May 2016 launched **SmartUp** solution. It is a first-of-its-kind dedicated platform for start-ups to fulfill all their banking needs.

**The benefits of SmartUp include**

- Enhanced transaction limit with **no minimum balance requirement for first six months**
- Customized Salary Account offering coupled with best-in class services and largest suite of product range
- PayZapp for Business - for providing invoicing, delivery and collection solutions and secure money transfer

The Union Government on 17 May 2016 constituted a five member committee to comprehensively review and give recommendations **on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) roadmap** for the future. The committee will be headed by **former Revenue and Expenditure Secretary NK Singh**. It has been asked to submit its report by 31 October 2016.

The Union Government on 17 May 2016 opened up a **Tatkal Window to expedite examination of patent applications by start-ups** as well as entities choosing India for the first filing of patent. The move came in the backdrop of 2.37 lakh patent applications pending in the country.

**The Income Tax (IT)** department on 17 May 2016 **launched an electronic grievance redressal system enivaran to fast track taxpayer grievances and ensure early resolution of their complaints**. In this regard, a separate and dedicated window for grievance redressal was also launched in the Income Tax Business Application (ITBA).

**Amazon India** forged a partnership with **Development Commissioner Handloom of the Union Ministry of Textiles** under which it will educate, train and enable cooperatives and weavers to directly sell their products on the online portal.

**Japanese firm Nomura** has **exited from its JV with LIC Mutual Fund**. LIC Nomura Mutual Fund is again being positioned as LIC Mutual Fund -- the original name it had before Nomura came in with 35 per cent stake in the joint venture.

State-owned BHEL has commissioned a 250 mw thermal unit of **Parli Thermal Power Station** in Maharashtra.

Union Government on 17 May 2016 announced that it is working to revise the **rehabilitation of bonded labour scheme and make it a Central Sector Scheme**. The revised scheme was announced by Bandaru Dattatreya, the Minister of State (IC) labour and Employment.

**Apple Inc.** on 19 May 2016 opened a **new Development Office in Hyderabad, Telangana**. The office was formally opened by Apple's CEO Tim Cook.

**Apple Inc.** on 18 May 2016 announced **establishment of a new iOS App Design and Development Accelerator in Bengaluru**.

**Apple Inc** signed an MoU with a city-based engineering college for women, G.Narayanamma Institute of Technology & Science for Women, choosing the institution **as a centre for excellence, the third in the world, for launching MAC lab-based training.**

India's leading passenger vehicle maker, **Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Chhattisgarh Transport Department** to set up a new Institute of Driving & Traffic Research at Naya Raipur, the state capital.

**India** and Central European country **Slovenia** on 17 May 2016 signed a protocol to amend an existing double taxation avoidance treaty in Ljubljana. This new agreement will curb tax avoidance and tax evasion.

India and Iran inked a dozen agreements ranging from a contract to develop the strategic Chabahar port to an initial pact to set up an aluminium plant and one on laying a railway line to give India connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

#### **List of MoUs & Agreements:**

- i. India-Iran Cultural Exchange Programme
- ii. MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Iran on Policy Dialogue between Governments and Interaction between Think Tanks
- iii. MoU between Foreign Service Institute, MEA and the School of International Relations, Iran's MoFA
- iv. Implementation Protocol between Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of S&T and Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology on Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology
- v. MoU between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations of the IR Iran
- vi. Bilateral contract on Chabahar Port for port development and operations between IPGPL [India Ports Global Private Limited] and Arya Banader of Iran
- vii. MoU between EXIM Bank and Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization [PMO] on current specific terms for the Chabahar Port project
- viii. Confirmation Statement between EXIM Bank and Central Bank of Iran - This confirms the availability of credit up to INR 3000 crore for the import of steel rails and implementation of Chabahar port.
- ix. MoU between ECGC [Export Credit Guarantee Corporation] Limited of India and the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI)
- x. MoU between National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO)
- xi. MoU between IRCON and Construction, Development of Transport and Infrastructure Company (CDTIC) of Iran
- xii. MoU for cooperation between the National Archives of India and the National Library and Archives Organisation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

**India, Iran and Afghanistan** inked an agreement on **the Chabahar port on the Gulf of Oman** that will make it a transport and transit hub to boost trade.

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 20 May 2016 **tightened the norms for investing in Participatory Notes (P-Notes)**. The norms have been tightened with a view to check money laundering.

**IRDAI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 35 lakh on Future Generali India Insurance Co** for violating various laws including the ones related to payments, licensing of insurance agents and file and use policy.

**The World Bank will provide assistance of \$100 million to the Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernisation project.**

**The Union Cabinet on 25 May 2016 approved the National Capital Goods Policy 2016.** This is first ever policy for Capital Goods sector with a clear objective of increasing production of **capital goods from 2.3 lakh crore rupees in 2014-15 to 7.5 lakh crore rupees in 2025.**

**The Government of Telangana and the US-based healthcare tech firm Eclat Health Solutions** on 24 May 2016 signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**. Under the MoU, **the Eclat will invest 15 million US dollars in Tier II cities of Telangana.**

**Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed a pact with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for developing **advanced airborne communication and electronic warfare systems.**

State-run BHEL has commissioned the first 800 mw supercritical thermal unit **Yeramarus Thermal Power Station** in Raichur, Karnataka.

DTH player **Tata Sky** has partnered **TechProcess Payment Services**, an electronic payments company, for the Next Gen Digital Payments Platform.

**Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL)** will be entering into a binding MoU with global clothing brand **Forever 21** to acquire its online and offline rights for the Indian market.

State-owned **Oriental Insurance** has **for the first time tied up with a private online insurance broker, Coverfox**, to sell its comprehensive motor insurance product for both four and two wheelers.

The Union Cabinet on 25 May 2016 gave ex-post facto approval to the MoU between **India and Japan** for promoting sustainable, stable and low-carbon thermal power development in India.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 May 2016 approved **for financial restructuring of Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited (HSCL)**. It also approved its takeover by National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC) to takeover HSCL.

**Tech Mahindra** will acquire U.K. headquartered **Target Group** to strengthen its presence in the banking and financial services (BFSI) segment in the European IT services market.

**Yes Bank** has partnered with **Click&Pay**, a Hyderabad-based mobile payment solutions enterprise, to **facilitate cashless, secure and flexible transactions for customers.**

**State Bank of India-country's largest lender-has established the largest network of Point of Sales (PoS) machines in the country.** As per the latest Reserve Bank of India data, at the end of March 31st 2015 SBI has 2.96 lakh PoS terminals across the country, more than HDFC Bank's 2.81 lakh, Axis Bank's 2.58 lakh terminals and ICICI Bank's over 2 lakh PoS machines.



The government has **commissioned 1,780 km of rail lines and also completed over 6,000 km of highways in 2015-16 period**, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Reserve Bank has allowed **Axis Bank to raise foreign shareholding to up to 62%**, from the earlier limit of 49%.

E-commerce major **Flipkart** introduced "**No Cost EMI**" option to make online shopping affordable for high-end purchases through an attractive financing option of equated monthly installments (EMI) where customers will not bear additional cost. The company has partnered with **Bajaj Finserv** and key brands to create this offering which is available for select products and sellers for now.

**For the first time in the country**, a division of the Indian Railways has introduced an '**Auto Vision Policy**'. The **Southern Railway**, which caters to the 'Detroit of India', the Chennai automobile cluster, has introduced the policy and also signed memorandums of understanding with two major ports to bring down cost to match road transportation.

**Tata Motors** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Automotive Skill Development Council (ASDC)**, a government of India-recognised skill council for a collaborative skill development program in the automotive sector.

## News related to India – Non Financial

The **2016 BRICS Youth Summit held in Guwahati, Assam** concluded on 3 July 2016. The theme of the 2nd youth summit that started on 1 July 2016 was "Youth as bridge for Intra-BRICS Exchanges".

The first meeting of the **BRICS Working Group on Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency** commenced on 4 July 2016 in **Visakhapatnam**.

The Railways Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu on 30 June 2016 launched **NIVARAN portal**, an online system for redressal of service related grievance of serving current and former railway employees.

The **Market Research Division of Ministry of Tourism** on 30 June **2016 released data on domestic and foreign tourist visits to States and Union Territories (UTs) for the year 2015**. The State that topped the list of the top ten States in terms of number of domestic tourist visits is **Tamil Nadu** that garnered 333.5 million domestic visits. The State that topped the list of the top ten States in terms of number of Foreign Tourist Visits during 2015 is **Tamil Nadu** with 4.68 million visits.

The **first squadron of home-grown Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** was inducted into Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Aircraft System Testing Establishment in Bengaluru on 1 July 2016. The squadron has been named '**Flying Daggers**' 45.

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development Smriti Zubin Irani on 30 June 2016 launched the **Prashikshak, a teacher education portal, with a vision to strengthen District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs)** and bring quality teachers into the Indian school education system.

A **Rapid Rural Police Response System** was launched across **Punjab** on 1 July 2016. The system was launched to ensure prompt and effective police response in over 12000 villages in Punjab.

**Kerala** government on 1 June 2016 **banned 'electronic cigarette'**. It was banned in view of studies claiming that its use can cause various health issues, including cancer and heart ailments.

**World's largest Charkha (spinning wheels)** was unveiled at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), New Delhi by Union Minister for MSME Kalraj Mishra on 5 July 2016.

The **Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)** on 5 July 2016 recommended a **green cess of 20-22 percent on diesel vehicles**. EPCA is a Supreme court-appointed Green Panel for Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR).

The Union Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 5 July 2016 gave green signal to introduce **The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016** in Parliament. The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 will facilitate the changing of the names of **Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court, Calcutta High Court as Kolkata High Court** and **Madras High Court as Chennai High Court** respectively.

The Union Cabinet on 5 July 2016 approved the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme to train 50 lakh apprentices by 2019-20. The Scheme involving an outlay of 10000 crore rupees will catalyze the entire apprenticeship ecosystem in the country.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 5 July 2016 launched MySpeed mobile application for measuring real time mobile Internet speed of consumers.

**India and Mozambique** on 7 July 2016 signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) in areas of **drug trafficking, pulse trading and sports**. These MoUs were signed between two countries at Maputo, Mozambique during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Mozambique. MoU on long term agreement for purchase of pulses It will promote the production of Tur (Pigeon Peas) and other pulses in Mozambique to encourage trading of pulses.

Water Resources Minister **Uma Bharti** on 7 July 2016 **inaugurated 231 projects under the Namami Gange Programme**. The projects were inaugurated from **Haridwar, Uttarakhand** in various locations in different states namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Haryana and Delhi.

The second phase of **Haritha Haram programme of Telangana government** was launched in the state on 8 July 2016. Chief Minister Chandrabab Naidu participated in the plantation programme at Gundrampalli near Chityal in Nalgonda district by planting a Neem sapling.

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari on 1 July 2016 launched the **National Green Highways Mission (NGHM) in New Delhi**. Under this initiative, plantation drive on 1500 km of National Highways was launched **at a cost of about 300 crore rupees**.

As part of programmes to implement **the Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bihar (2015-30)**, the state government signed an MoU with Bangkok-based **Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)**.

**India and Tanzania** on 10 July 2016 inked five agreements to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

#### **List of MOUs/Agreements**

- MoU on Cooperation in the field of water resource management and development between the two countries.
- MoU on Visa waiver agreement for Diplomatic/Official passport holders between the two countries.
- Agreement on Joint Action Plan (JAP) between National Small Industries Corporation of India (NSIC) and Small Industries Development Organization Tanzania (SIDO).
- MoU for Establishment of Vocational Training Centre at Zanzibar.
- **LOC of 92 million US dollar for rehabilitation and improvement of water supply system in Zanzibar.**

**Andhra Pradesh** government has decided to conduct a '**Smart Pulse Survey**' for collecting socio-economic data of 1.48 crore households in the state. The survey started on 8 July 2016 will end on 30 July 2016.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 11 July 2016 launched a nationwide Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF). The programme is an effort to decrease infant mortality caused by diarrhoea.

Indian Navy's long pursued endeavour of establishing a dedicated base for its Special Operation Forces – MARCOS (Marine Commandos) – **INS Karna** was commissioned by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba.

Union Government on 13 July 2016 started the operation '**Sankat Mochan**' to evacuate its citizens stranded in **South Sudan's capital Juba**. Two C-17 military transport aircrafts have been pressed in service to make the evacuation.

**Madhya Pradesh Cabinet** on 15 July 2016 gave its nod to set up **Happiness Department in the state**. The department will work as knowledge resource centre on the subject of happiness. With this approval, **Madhya Pradesh became the first state of the country to set up such a Department**.

Ayurveda company **Dabur India** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defence Research and Development Organization's (DRDO) **Defense Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR)** to promote sustainable **cultivation of rare medicinal plants in the most difficult terrain in the world, Ladakh**.

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) have signed on 15.07.2016 **an ADDENDUM X** to the Memorandum of Understanding providing for the details of Programme of Co-operation.

**The World Health Organization (WHO)** on 14 July 2016 **declared India as Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus free**. In this regard, WHO presented certificates to the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda.

The Ministry of Railways on 17 July 2016 developed the **TRI-NETRA system on locomotives for enhancing the vision of Locomotive Pilots in inclement weather**. TRI-NETRA stands for Terrain imaging for diesel dRivers INfra-red, Enhanced opTical & Radar Assisted system.

The ruins of ancient **Nalanda Mahavihara known as old Nalanda University of Bihar** on 15 July 2016 got **inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO**. With this, Nalanda University ruins became the second World Heritage Site in Bihar after Bodhgaya's Mahabodhi temple and 33rd such site in India.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 17 July 2016 listed **Franco-Swiss architect Le Corbusier's works** among its World Heritage Sites. The listed works include **Chandigarh's Complexe du Capitole**, **Khangchendzonga National Park** and **Mount Khangchendzonga**. It is the first time that any country got three sites inscribed in the World Heritage List at a single session of the committee meeting.

**India's first e-court was opened at High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad on 17 July 2016.** It was inaugurated by Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B Lokur who heads the e-Committee of the Supreme Court.

The Union Cabinet on 20 July 2016 gave its approval for establishment of **new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh**. The institute will be established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

**India and South Africa** on 8 July 2016 announced Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and Programme in four areas of bilateral cooperation. While the MoUs cover the information and communication technology (ICT), grass root innovation and tourism, the Programme of Cooperation will cover segments of arts and culture. The MoUs and the Programme were announced after summit level talks between the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Jacob Zuma in Johannesburg, South Africa.

To make the country disaster-resilient and reduce loss of lives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a **National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)**. This is **the first ever national plan prepared in the country**. The plan is based on four priority themes outlined by the **United Nation's 'Sendai Framework,'** -- understanding disaster risk, improving disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction (through structural and non-structural measures) and disaster preparedness, early warning and building back better in the aftermath of a disaster.

A Memorandum of Understanding ( MoU) between the **Government of India and the Government of the United States of America** was signed to enhance cooperation on energy security, clean energy and climate change .

India on Thursday joined the **Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC)** — a global ballistic missile proliferation regime — but made it clear that it will not have any impact on the national security as well as country's missile programmes.

**Sachin Tendulkar's name to be used in Kerala Government's Anti-Drug Campaign.** This was announced on 1 June 2016 by the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. He said that the cricket icon has given his consent to use his name to strengthen the campaign against liquor and drug abuse in the state.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 1 June 2016 launched **DND Services Mobile Application** for telecom subscribers to register their complaints against pesky calls and SMSs.

**Madhya Pradesh** government and **Tata Trusts** have signed an agreement on implementing interventions in healthcare areas like nutrition, mental health and cancer care in the state.

The Assam state capital **Guwahati became the first city in the country to have its own City Animal** with the Kamrup Metropolitan district administration declaring **the Gangetic river dolphin**, commonly known in the state as "sihu", as the mascot.

**Odisha** in the first week of June 2016 *became the first Indian state to give transgender people social welfare benefits, such as a pension, housing and food grains.*

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on 5 June 2016 launched **Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act**. The act seeks disposal of peoples' complaints or redressal of grievances from Government officials within 60-days

**The Haryana Government** on 3 June 2016 **launched Asia's First Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme at Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghanistan President Dr Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the **Afghan-India Friendship Dam** with in Herat province in Western Afghanistan on 4 June 2016.

The abbreviation **Swachh-Yug** was in news on 6 June 2016. The campaign, being a collaborative effort between the Swachh Bharat Mission, local youth leaders (यवु ा) and the Namami Gange project (गंगा) - is being called 'Swachh यु-ग', which translates into 'the age of Swachh'.

Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu on 5 June 2016 flagged off the inaugural run of the **Tiger Trail Circuit Train from Delhi Safdarjung Station**. The launch of this Tiger Express on World Environment Day is to highlight the significance of environment.

**India and the United States (US)** on 8 June 2016 *signed/finalized eight agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) in various fields including exchange of Terrorist Screening Information, cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change among others.*

**The inked MoUs/Agreements include**

1. Arrangement for the exchange of Terrorist Screening Information
2. MoU to enhance cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change
3. MoU to enhance co-operation on Wildlife Conservation, management and Combating Wildlife Trafficking
4. MoU for the Development of an International Expedited Traveler Initiative (the Global Entry Programme)
5. Technical Arrangement concerning Unclassified Maritime Information Sharing
6. MoU for Cooperation in Gas Hydrates
7. Information Exchange Annex (IEA) to the Master Information Exchange Agreement concerning Aircraft Carrier Technologies
8. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with President Obama began on a propitious note as members of the **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)**, agreed to admit **India**, in a triumph for the prime minister. This will give India access to high-end missile technology from across the world and will allow India to purchase top-of-the-line missile systems. The MTCR will also pave the way for India to sell its supersonic **BrahMos** cruise missiles, which it developed jointly with Russia to third countries. It's a feather in Modi's cap, that the development will make **India a significant arms exporter for the first time.**

**India** on 4 June 2016 became the co-chair of Working Group on Maritime Situational Awareness under Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS).

**India** on 4 June 2016 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **United States of America (USA)** to *facilitate hassle-free entry of Indians into America at selected airports*. It will provide quick security clearances for pre-approved, low-risk travellers from India.

**Himachal Pradesh** on 5 June 2016 *became the first Indian state to have a State Data Centre (SDC)*. The centre was launched by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh in Shimla.

Rajasthan Government on 5 June 2016 launched mobile application **RajVayu** for sharing information about **Air Quality Index of Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur**. The app was launched by Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on the eve of World Environment Day.

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal launched **Surya Mitra mobile App at National Workshop on Rooftop Solar Power in New Delhi on 7 June 2016**. The App will be very useful in the field of Renewable energy to serve customers at their doorsteps with quality installation, repair, and Observations and Measurements (O&M) services.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on 7 June 2016 *appointed a judicial commission to probe into the recent Mathura violence hours*. The Judicial commission will be headed by retired Allahabad High Court judge Justice Mirza Imtiyaz Murtaza. It has been asked to submit its report in two months.

**The Rajiv Gauba Committee on Decongestion of Traffic in Delhi** on 5 June 2016 submitted its report to the Union Ministry of Urban Development.

**Exercise Desert Eagle II**, which was the second in the series of bilateral exercises between **Indian Air Force (IAF) and United Arab Emirates Air Force (UAE AF)**, was concluded on 3 June 2016. This was a ten-day air combat exercise in which the IAF and the UAE Air Force undertook air exercises from Al-Dhafra Air Base, Abu Dhabi starting from 22 May 2016.

Internet search engine **Google** and **Tata Trusts'** joint initiative **Internet Saathi** was launched on **8 June 2016 in Kolkata, West Bengal**. The initiative aims at reducing the digital gender gap in rural areas of India such as Purulia, where girls have now been trained to use the Internet and teach others in turn.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on 8 June 2016 announced *that a new Indian Reserve Battalion in Rajasthan* will be named after **Maharana Pratap**. The battalion will be named as Maharana Pratap reserve battalion.

The Union Government on 8 June 2016 decided to introduce **International Yoga Award Scheme**. The award will be introduced with an aim to promote yoga. At present, the AYUSH ministry is working on the scheme and it will start giving the award from 2017.

Researchers at **Assam Agricultural University** have developed two rice varieties, namely **Ranjit Sub-1 and Bahadur Sub-1**. These rice varieties were developed to get better yields under submerged conditions in state mainly Barak Valley.

Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on 10 June 2016 flagged off the weekly **Champan Satyagrah Express** at Motihari, Bihar.

**India and Ghana** on 13 June 2016 *signed three bilateral agreements to strengthen co-operation in varied fields*. The three agreements signed with Ghana included one for visa waivers for holders of diplomatic and official passports and one for setting up a Joint Commission.



**Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** on 12 June 2016 **inaugurated Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS)**. The system was launched to keep a track of rescued child labour for their proper rehabilitation.

**Gujarat's Shiyal Bet** on 11 June 2016 **got electricity for the first time, after 70 years of Independence**. State's Chief Minister Anandiben Patel inaugurated the 18.35 crore rupees project to supply grid power to the island through marine cables.

The Union Government on 14 June 2016 **approved a series of measures for the abatement of pollution and for the conservation and preservation of lakes** in **Bengaluru**.

**Telangana government** on 10 June 2016 **decided to set up of a Pharma City on 12500 acres of land in Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar districts of the state**. Telangana has traditionally been the bulk drugs capital of India with almost one-third of the total production in value terms.

**India, the United States and Japan** on 10 June 2016 began the annual exercise **Malabar 2016**. This is the 20th edition of Malabar Exercise that will be conducted till 17 June 2016 .

The Union Cabinet on 15 June 2016 gave its approval for **signing of a 15 years contract** by the Ministry of Earth Sciences with **the International Seabed Authority (ISA)**. The contract seeks to undertake exploration and other developmental activities related to **Polymetallic Sulphides** in the allotted area of 10000 sq km.

The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) on 16 June 2016 launched **the Vidyanjali Mobile App** that can be used by anyone to register for volunteer work at government schools. Vidyanjali initiative is in line with the Union HRD Ministry's ongoing efforts under Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat. Vidyanjali is being launched in pilot phase across 2200 schools in 21 states by HRD Minister.

The **Government of Maharashtra** on 15 June 2016 **decided to use plastic waste, along with tar, to build roads**. The decision is aimed at improving the durability and longevity of asphalt roads and reducing soil pollution caused by plastic.

1st Meeting of National Committee on Ramayana Circuit & Krishna Circuit under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** was held on 14 June 2016. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Tourism & Culture Dr Mahesh Sharma.

**India and Thailand** on 17 June 2016 **signed two agreements that are aimed at enhancing cooperation in culture as well as educational sectors**. The set of agreements pertains to extension of the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for 2016-19 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Nagaland University and Thailand's Chiang Mai University.

**Mori village in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh** will be developed as **a smart village of global standards**. Towards this endeavor, the partners in the project on 19 June 2016 announced that prototype will be ready by mid-December 2016.

Public sector aerospace Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on 17 June 2016 unveiled indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) HTT-40 in Bengaluru.

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on 18 June 2016 launched **the fund titled Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund** to provide free treatment for patients affected by Hepatitis C. With this initiative, **Punjab became the first Indian state to provide free treatment to confirmed cases of Hepatitis C**.

The 9 million Euro Indo-EU '**Water4crops**' project was in news in third week of June 2016 after a review and planning meet on the project was conducted from 15 June to 17 June 2016 in New Delhi. The review meeting was held to mark the completion of 4-year of the project. **Water4crops Project: 9 million euro Indo-EU project on water-scarce agricultural sector.**

**Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** on 22 June 2016 **launched a record 20 satellites in a single mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.** With this launch of 20 satellites, ISRO also managed to break its previous record of placing 10 satellites into orbit in a single mission in 2008. The 20 satellites including India's latest earth observation satellite **Cartosat-2** was launched on-board Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV C-34. The other 19 satellites were from the US, Germany, Canada and Indonesia as well as two satellites from Sathyabama University, Chennai, and the College of Engineering, Pune.

Union Government in June 2016 asked **all state governments to link Aadhaar with caste and domicile certificates of school students.** Under first-of-its-kind initiative, the states have been asked to ensure that such certificates are issued within 60 days time to the students when they are studying either in Class V or VIII.

**The Maharashtra Cabinet** on 21 June 2016 **approved the minority status to Jew community.** This decision will benefit the students from these communities to avail scholarships from the state government.

To commemorate the 2nd International Day of Yoga, Andhra Pradesh Postal circle on 21 June 2016 released "Information booklet, Stamps on Yoga" and "12 stamps on Suryanamaskarams".

**India and Namibia** on 16 June 2016 signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on capacity building for civil servants of Namibia and to set up of centre of excellence in Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

**Microsoft** was on 17 June 2016 **selected as the technical partner to build a mobile Application (app) for Union Human Resources Ministry's SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds)** platform. The platform will launch 2000 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) for over three crore students in 2016.

**Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** was launched in Odisha at Sambalpur by Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Juel Oram. Ujjwala Yojana is aimed at providing 5 Crore LPG connections in the name of women in BPL (Below Poverty Line) households across the country.

President Pranab Mukherjee in June 2016 returned 3 bills to Manipur Legislative Assembly for reconsideration.

The 3 bills that were returned were –

1. The Manipur Land Reforms and Land Revenue (7th Amendment) Bill, 2015
2. The Manipur Shops and Establishment (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2015
3. The Manipur Protection of Peoples Bill, 2015

The Union Government on 23 June 2016 launched **India's first pilot programme to run two wheelers on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in New Delhi.** The first of its kind programme was launched by

Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State for Environment, Forests & Climate Change.

**Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Jadavpur University (JU), Kolkata**, to establish the **Jagadish Chandra Bose Centre for Advanced Technology (JCBCAT)**.

**The Padma Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park** in Darjeeling will soon receive a snow leopard from Dudley Zoological Gardens in London.

**Odisha** launches new higher education loan scheme '**Kalinga Sikshya Sathi Yojana**' for underprivileged. The state government has earmarked Rs 500 crore from its own resources for the purpose.

**India** on 27 June 2016 *became the 35th full member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)*. This entry would be mutually beneficial to enhance global non-proliferation norms.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 June 2016 launched several projects for **20 Smart Cities in Pune under the Smart City Mission**. The Projects were launched exactly a year after Union Government launched the flagship Smart City Mission in June 2015 by releasing the Mission Guidelines.

#### **Highlights of the Projects**

- Projects were launched in 20 cities selected in the first batch of mission through a city challenge competition.
- **Pune stood second in the selected cities.**
- Projects launched in Pune include slum rehabilitation, street and pedestrian walkway, modern buses with alternative fuels, traffic demand modelling project and city common mobility card.
- **Ahmedabad** has launched sewage treatment plant, housing project, smart learning in municipal schools.
- **Bhubaneswar**, which topped the list in the city challenge, has launched a railway multi-modal hub, traffic signalisation project and urban knowledge centre.
- In New Delhi Municipal Council, a mini-sewerage treatment plants, 444 smart class rooms, WiFi, smart LED streetlights, city surveillance, command and control centre were launched.
- The 20 selected cities would be linked through video conferencing.
- PM Modi also inaugurated the Make Your City SMART contest aimed at continuing citizen participation in the planning. Suggestions and designs suggested by the citizens will be incorporated by respective smart cities.

**Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**, an initiative of the Narendra Modi Government, was launched in June 2016. The scheme aims at boosting the health care facilities for the pregnant women, especially the poor. It also seeks to protect pregnant ladies from infectious diseases. Under the scheme, the pregnant ladies will be given free health check-up and required treatment for free on 9th of every month. The scheme will be applicable for pregnant women to avail in every government hospitals across India.

**Uttar Pradesh government** in June 2016 declared that all natural calamities including unseasonal heavy rain, lightning, Loo and storm and others will be treated as state disaster.

**Majuli** was in news on 27 June 2016 as the **Government of Assam approved its up gradation as a district**. The approval was given by the State Cabinet in its first meeting after the formation of the government on 24 May 2016. **It is the largest mid river delta system in the world**. It is also comprised of many islets locally called the Chaporis.

Armed Forces and state government of Assam on 28 June 2016 started exercise **JALRAHAT** at Narangi Cantt of Assam. It is an initiative that is being carried on for flood relief in the state.

Indigenously developed heavyweight torpedo **Varunastra** was inducted in the Indian Navy on 29 June 2016. It was handed to the Indian Navy by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

**India's first integrated defence communication network was launched**, enabling the army, air force, navy and the Special Forces Command to share situational awareness for a faster decisionmaking process.

The last ship in the series of four Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts (WJFAC) being built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), **INS Tarasa**, for the Indian Navy was launched.

India on 30 June 2016 successfully test-fired a **medium range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) from a mobile launcher in the Integrated Test Range (ITR)** at Chandipur off the Odisha coast. The MR-SAM was co-developed by the Defence Research Development Laboratory (DRDL) of DRDO in partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

India Post in June 2016 opened up the ongoing scheme of customized printing of '**My Stamp**' for individuals and corporate also. Under the scheme an individual or a corporate entity can get their photo or logo printed inside the postage stamp at a price of 12 lakh rupees. So far the department has issued customised **My Stamp for e-commerce platform Amazon India, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**.

The Union Cabinet on 29 June 2016 approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC), Bhutan**.

Union Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated the underground corridor of Bangalore Metro Rail on 30 April 2016. **Bangalore Metro Rail is also known as Namma Metro**. This makes the Namma Metro or Bangalore Metro as **the first in South India to have an operational underground section of Metro Rail**.

**Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao** on 29 April 2016 launched **Adi Praman**, a web-based application. With this, Maharashtra **became the first state to provide caste validity certificates online**.

The Supreme Court of India on 30 April 2016 decided against extending **the deadline for phasing out diesel cabs in National Capital Region (NCR)**. It ordered the diesel cabs to go off the roads from 1 May 2016.

The Supreme Court of India on 2 May 2016 appointed a three-member panel headed by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) **RM Lodha** to oversee the functions of the **Medical Council of India**. It is the regulator of medical profession and education in India.

The Union Cabinet on 4 May 2016 approved the signing of Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) between Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) and **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**.

Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu on 5 May 2016 dedicated to the nation a high speed Wi-Fi hotspot at the three Railway Stations. These stations are **Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh**, **Kachiguda in Telangana** and **Raipur in Chhattisgarh**. The Wi-Fi facility for the visitors and rail users of these stations has been commissioned by **RailTel** in association with Google for providing high speed state of the art world class internet experience to the commuters.

Goa-based defence shipyard, Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), on 5 May 2016 launched **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shaurya** at Vasco. This is the fifth ship of a series of six off-shore patrol vessels (OPVs) that the Indian Coast Guard had tasked the Vasco defence public sector undertaking to build.

The Union Government on 5 May 2016 **announced that the H.R. Nagendra Committee on Yoga Education in Universities has recommended seven programmes for implementation in universities**. The Union Government on 15 January 2016 had constituted a committee on yoga education in universities. The committee was headed by **Professor H.R. Nagendra**, Chancellor, Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana, Samsthana, Bengaluru.

**NMDC Limited** has signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre**, opening up possibilities for use of satellite technology for mineral exploration and other related ventures.

**112**, the single emergency number that will help people to reach immediate services of police, ambulance and fire department **will be operational throughout India from 1 January 2017**. Single emergency number 112 of India will be similar to the '911' all-in-one emergency service in the United States.

**The Karnataka Government** in the first week of May 2016 **decided to establish Asia's first-ever Rice Technology Park at Gangavati**. Besides, a Maize Technology Park will also be established at Ranebennur in Haveri district.

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation **Uma Bharti** on 9 May 2016 **launched nine projects for rural sanitation initiatives for conservation of River Ganga in Sahibganj, Jharkhand**. The initiatives were launched under Namami Gange Programme of the Ministry.

**Google** on 9 May 2016 announced **the launch of its free high-speed public WiFi service at railway stations of Ujjain, Jaipur, Patna, Guwahati, and Allahabad**. Google has deployed service over **RailWire** which is an extensive fibre network of Indian Railway's arm Railtel that provides Internet services.

**Indian Space Research Organisation** has established **Nozzle Testing Laboratories (NTL) at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre** in Thiruvananthapuram, to carry out better research in the area of rocket nozzle.

Indian Navy on 11 May 2016 decommissioned its fleet of iconic **Sea Harriers**. This episode of decommissioning marked the end of an era in India's naval history, as the country holds an official ceremony phasing out the last of its iconic Sea Harrier jets.

The Supreme Court on 11 May 2016 **struck down the regulation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) which made it mandatory for telecom companies to compensate subscribers for call drops from January 2016**.

The Uttar Pradesh government on 11 May 2016 gave its nod to develop nearly **200-km long bicycle highway from Agra to the lion safari in Etawah**. The plan aims at encouraging eco-tourism in the vicinity of the Taj Mahal.

**Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (IUHDSS)** and **Mine Warfare Data Centre (MWDC)** were inaugurated on 11 May 2016.

**Maharashtra government** on 12 May 2016 **declared drought in over 29000 villages of the state**, most of them in parched Marathwada and Vidarbha regions.

**The Prime Minister** along with **Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena** on 14 May 2016 released '**Simhashta Declaration**' at Ninora village in **Ujjain**. Both leaders addressed the concluding session of the 3 day International Vihar Mahakumbh for the month-long Simhashta Mela. Sri Lankan President Sirisena was on a two day visit to India from 13 May to 15 May 2016.

India on 15 May 2016 successfully test fired an indigenously developed Advanced Air Defence interceptor missile, **Ashwin**. It was launched from the complex of Abdul Kalam Island (formerly known as Wheeler Island) off Odisha coast.

**The Union Ministry of AYUSH and the World Health Organization (WHO)** on 13 May 2016 signed the Project Collaboration Agreement (PCA) for cooperation on **Global promotion of Traditional Systems of Medicine**.

**Parkash Singh committee** constituted to inquire into the omission and commission on part of all officers and officials of police and civil administration during Jat Quota agitation submitted its report to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The report was submitted on 13 May 2016.

**World's largest single rooftop solar power plant of 11.5 Mw capacity was inaugurated in Beas near Amritsar in Punjab**. Spread at a single rooftop stretch of 42 acre at Dera Baba Jaimal, the project was synchronised earlier this year.

**India and the United States (US)** on 16 May 2016 held **the first round of discussions under the recently constituted Maritime Security Dialogue**. The dialogue was held between the officials of Defence and External Affairs ministries and their US counterparts.

Mobile app for transportation **Ola signed an MoU with National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)** established under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to focus on building a sustainable framework by supporting entrepreneurship, skill development training and self-defence courses for Safai Karamcharis and Scavengers.

Uttar Pradesh government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kingdom Company of veteran actor Sanjay Khan to establish a 1,000-acre theme park along the Agra Ring Road, which connects the Yamuna Expressway and the under-construction Lucknow-Agra Expressway.

**The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** on 18 May 2016 **conducted the trial run of India's first ever Metro train equipped to run in the driverless mode**. The train was ceremonially flagged off by Union Minister for Urban Development M Venkaiah Naidu and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The six-coach train was ferried to India from **South Korea**.



**The Odisha Government** on 17 May 2016 decided to launch **Green Passage Scheme** for orphan students. The scheme will ensure that the orphan students get free of cost higher education in the state.

**India** on 18 May 2016 successfully test fired indigenously developed **Prithvi-II** missile from the Chandipur, off Odisha coast.

President Pranab Mukherjee on 19 May 2016 inaugurated an **Intelligent Operations Centre (IOC)** in **Rashtrapati Bhavan**. President Mukherjee also launched a Mobile App Monitor for transformation of President's Estate into a smart township.

Union Health Minister on 20 May 2016 launched the '**Kayakalp Fortnight**' at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. It has to be observed from the date of launch to 3 June 2016 throughout the country in various Central Government hospitals. The aim of the Kayakalp Fortnight is to intensify Kayakalp initiative under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.

The term Medicines with the **Red Line** was in news on 19 May 2016 as the campaign was appreciated by the Global Review on Antimicrobial Resistance.

The 27th edition of the **India-Indonesian CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol)** concluded on 19 May 2016 in Belawan, Indonesia.

The US House of Representatives on 20 May 2016 gave its nod to **a bipartisan legislation to improve defence ties with India**. In this regard, an amendment to the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) was approved by the House. The amendment is dubbed as '**Enhancing Defence and Security Co-operation with India**'.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 23 May 2016 successfully launched its maiden **indigenous winged Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)** from Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh.

National Green Tribunal Circuit Bench **banned light and heavy diesel vehicles**, which are **more than 10 years old**, in six major cities, including state capital **Thiruvananthapuram** and commercial capital **Kochi**, in **Kerala**.

**India and Oman** on 22 May 2016 signed **4 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)/agreements in Muscat**. They were signed during the visit of Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar to Oman.

#### **Details related to MoUs/Agreements**

- MOU on Defence Cooperation between the Ministry of Defense of Sultanate of Oman and Ministry of Defence of India
- MOU between the Royal Oman Police (Coast Guard) and the Indian Coast Guard in the field of Marine Crime Prevention at Sea
- MOU between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and India on Maritime Issues
- Protocol between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman represented by Royal Air Force of Oman and the Government of India represented by the Indian Air Force on Flight Safety information Exchange

**Himachal Pradesh** fisheries department in the third week of May 2016 launched an artificial propagation programme for rehabilitation and conservation of **Golden Mahseer fish**.

The Union Minister of State for Science and Technology YS Chowdary on 20 May 2016 launched **Qora**. It is an indigenously developed faecal incontinence (FI) management system.

The government announced the names of 13 more cities that will be developed under the Centre's '**Smart City Mission**' with **Lucknow in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh topping the list**, followed by Warangal in Telangana and Dharmashala in Himachal Pradesh. Other cities, which won this round, were Chandigarh, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), New Town Kolkata, Bhagalpur (Bihar), Panaji (Goa), Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Imphal (Manipur), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Faridabad (Haryana).

**Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh** on 22 May 2016 launched **the PEHAL programme for the district of Shimla**. Under the PEHAL, **5 focus areas** were identified by the district administration for development.

The Union Government on 20 May 2016 constituted **a committee of experts on defence spending**. The 11-member committee will be **headed by Lt Gen DB Shekatkar (retd)** and include top military officers and civilian experts.

**Fast Attack Craft INS Tarmugli** was on 23 May 2016 commissioned into Indian Navy by Vice Admiral HCS Bisht, AVSM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.

The abbreviation **NEDA standing for North East Democratic Alliance** was in news as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on 24 May 2016 formed NEDA to boost development agenda in North-Eastern states of India.

The Union Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 25 May 2016 granted ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Tourism, **Government of India and the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Maldives**.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on 25 May 2016 **launched 20 Nirbhaya buses of Rajasthan State Transport Corporation (RSTC)**. These buses are fitted with multiple safety measures to better protect women passengers. The 20 buses launched as a pilot project under the NIRBHAYA scheme include 10 luxury and 10 ordinary roadways buses.

**Intel India** announced three innovative initiatives to strengthen its support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India programme. Building on the momentum of its "**Ek Kadam Unnati Ki Aur**" initiative to accelerate access to technology in non-urban India, Intel India e-launched its latest "**Unnati Kendra at Common Service Centre**" (UK at CSC) in Karnal, the first in Haryana. Intel India also announced the "**Digital Unnati**" website that is being set up in collaboration with the CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd.

The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Smriti Zubin Irani on 25 May 2016 launched the **multilingual knowledge portal www.bharatvani.in at Lucknow**. With its launch, **Bharatavani became the largest online repository of dictionaries in India**.

The finding of the first of its kind survey conducted at the **Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai** were released by the Research Team of L.N.Welingkar Institute of Management (WE School) in May 2016 at Mumbai Customs House.

An advanced version of **BrahMos** land-attack supersonic cruise missile system was successfully test fired at 12 noon in the Western Sector by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The Ministry of Railways on 26 May 2016 launched **Rail Humsafar Saptah**, a week-long initiative to highlight significant achievements made by Indian Railways in all spheres. The Rail Humsafar Saptah concluded on 1 June 2016.

ISRO said it will launch **a record 22 satellites in a single mission in June**.

**Lakshadweep** on 27 May 2016 signed 24x7 Power for All document. **It became the first Union Territory (UT) to sign the document** which aims to provide each household access to electricity through 24x7 Power supply by 2019.

Seeking to stimulate and enhance the strategic research and innovation capabilities of the Indian biotech industry, **BIRAC**, a PSU under the Ministry of Science and Technology signed an MoU with **Horticulture Innovation Australia** for launching a joint funding call.

The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) **ARUSH** was commissioned on 26 May 2016 by the Coast Guard Commander (Western Seaboard) Additional Director General SPS Basra at Kochi.

**Second submarine assembly workshop** of the **Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)** was inaugurated by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar on 28 May 2016.

Nine-coach Spanish train **Talgo's** trial run was conducted on 29 May 2016 on the **Bareilly-Moradabad route of Uttar Pradesh**. It was conducted as part of the Railways' strategy to increase the speed of trains.

Ministry of Railways and PEC University of Technology, Chandigarh on 30 May 2016 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up **Kalpna Chawla Chair on Geospatial Technology for Indian Railways** at the University.

## Appointments – India and World

### India –

1. RBI appoints **Sudarshan Sen** as Executive Director
2. **Madhav Dhekane** took over as Director of ISRO Inertial Systems Unit
3. **R Thiruppathi Venkatasamy** appointed as Accountant General of Tamil Nadu
4. **Mahendra Nath Pandey** takes over as MoS for HRD
5. Zee Learn appoints **Debshankar Mukhopadhyay** as CEO
6. **Deepak Singhal** appointed as the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh
7. **D Rajkumar** appointed CMD of BPCL
8. **Utpal Bora** appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India
9. **Tathagata Roy** sworn-in as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
10. **Sanjay Gupta** appointed as CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited
11. **Ashok Patnaik** to be new CEO of NATGRID
12. Vistara names **Ravinder Pal Singh** as CIO
13. **K V R Murthy** appointed as CMD of Jute Corp of India
14. **Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi** appointed as Chairman of CBSE
15. **Rohit Bhasin** named new ED of Air India (Eastern Region)

16. **Pema Khandu** sworn-in as Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister
17. **Guruprasad Mohapatra** appointed as Chairman of Airports Authority of India
18. Coca-Cola appoints **Sarvita Sethi** as VP (Finance) for India and South West Asia
19. Govt appoints **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** UIDAI CEO
20. **Nita Ambani** becomes *the first Indian woman to be nominated as a member by the IOC*
21. National Skill Development Corporation names **Manish Kumar** CEO, **Jayant Krishna** as COO
22. **Rahul Johri** takes charge as first ever BCCI CEO
23. **Sudeep Lakhtakia** appointed CRPF Additional DG
24. Former Delhi Police Commissioner **BS Bassi** appointed UPSC member
25. **Ashok Ganapathy** appointed as the Director of Airtel Business
26. **V Narayanasamy** sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister
27. **CR Sasikumar** takes over as MD of State Bank of Travancore
28. **Navin Agarwal** appointed DG of National Anti-Doping Agency
29. **Umang Bedi** appointed as Facebook India MD
30. **Dia Mirza** named Ambassador for *Swachh Saathi programme*
31. **Sanjay Saxena** appointed Crime Branch chief Mumbai
32. 3M India appoints **Debarati Sen** as new managing director
33. **G Kalyanakrishnan** took over as Chief Executive of Nuclear Fuel Complex
34. **Satya Pal Jain** appointed as Law Commission member
35. **Ranu Langthasa** appointed as first woman chairperson of NCHAC in Assam
36. **Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad** takes charge of Chief Justice of Manipur HC
37. Shell Lubricants India appoints **Mansi Tripathy** as MD
38. **Manoj Mishra** takes charge as Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers' (RCF) CMD
39. DBS Bank appoints **Niraj Mittal** as institutional banking head
40. **Supriya Sahu** appointed as Doordarshan DG
41. Exide Life Insurance, on Tuesday announced cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador.
42. Flipkart's **Michael Adnani** joins Styletag.com as CEO
43. PayPal India appoints **Anupam Pahuja** as Managing Director
44. Former Cricketer And BJP MP **Chetan Chauhan** Appointed As NIFT Chairman
45. Nokia appoints **Sanjay Malik** India head
46. **Sujoy Bose** appointed as new CEO of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Ltd
47. **N S Vishwanathan** is new deputy governor at RBI
48. **Saresh Lotlikar** appointed Advocate General of Goa
49. JNU VC **Jagadesh Kumar** appointed member of UGC

#### World –

1. World Bank Group appoints **Paul Romer** as Chief Economist
2. **Theresa May** appointed Prime Minister of United Kingdom
3. **Linda Burney** becomes *first Indigenous woman elected to Australia's lower house*
4. **Rodrigo Duterte** sworn in as Philippines' president
5. **Sushila Karki** confirmed as Nepal's first woman Chief Justice
6. India-born **Kinshuk** appointed as Dean of University of North Texas College of Information

7. **Malcolm Turnbull** sworn in as Australia's PM for another term
8. **Steve Elworthy** appointed Managing Director of 2019 World Cup
9. **Peter Thomson** of Fiji elected as President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly
10. **Kenneth Cole** named UNAIDS international goodwill ambassador
11. **Shahid Rasool** takes charge as Director of Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia
12. **Swedish general Per Lodin** appointed to head UN India Pakistan military observers
13. **Kulmeet Bawa** appointed Adobe MD for South Asia
14. **Pedro Pablo Kuczynski** wins Peru's Presidential Election
15. **Sunil Bharti Mittal** elected as Chairman of International Chamber of Commerce
16. Hollywood actor **Anne Hathaway** appointed as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador
17. Indian-origin **Kamala Shirin Lakhdhir** nominated as US Ambassador to Malaysia
18. **Virginia Raggi** becomes first female mayor of Rome
19. SoftBank Group names **Ken Miyauchi** as President and COO
20. Indian-origin lawyer **Yasmin Sooka** to chair panel on human rights in South Sudan
21. Food and Beverage multinational Nestle SA on 27 June 2016 named **Ulf Mark Schneider** as its next Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
22. Suzuki Motors appoints **Toshihiro Suzuki** as CEO
23. **Gudni Johannesson** wins Iceland's presidential election

## Reports & Indexes

World Bank on 1 July 2016 released the Logistics Performance Index 2016 titled '**Connecting to compete: 2016: Trade Logistics in the Global Economy.**' The 2016 Logistics Performance Index (LPI) allows for comparisons across 160 countries. **India's ranking jumped from 54 in 2014 to 35 in 2016.**

Germany topped the 2016 rankings and is followed by Luxembourg, Sweden, Netherlands, and Singapore. Hong Kong SAR, China was ranked at 9th position while United States was placed at 10th Position in the list of rankings. Mainland China was placed at 27th position.

**India was placed at 91st position in the Networked Readiness Index (NRI) 2016** that was released by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) on 6 July 2016. The index was released as the part of the WEF's Global Information Technology Report 2016.

Bollywood superstars **Shahrukh Khan** and **Akshay Kumar** are among the world's highest-paid celebrities of 2016, **according to an annual list by Forbes**. The list has been topped by American singer Taylor Swift

with an earning of \$170 million. **Shah Rukh ranks 86<sup>th</sup>** on the list with earnings of \$33 million, while **Akshay comes in on the 94<sup>th</sup> spot** with \$31.5 million earnings.

**The World Health Organisation** on 18 July 2016 released a report of **2015 Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Global Survey**. Globally, four NCDs, which are cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, represent the largest cause of death in people aged under 70 years. Cancer, diabetes and heart diseases account for 55% of the premature mortality in India in the age group of 30-69 years. **India is the first country to develop specific national targets and indicators aimed at reducing the number of premature deaths from NCDs by 25% by 2025.**

According to **2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI)**, **India has jumped 13 positions from last year to rank second** among 30 developing countries this year on ease of doing business, topped by China.

**Forbes** on 6 June 2016 released **the list of World's 100 Most Powerful Women of 2016 showing women who impacted businesses, media, philanthropy, politics and more**. The world's most powerful woman in the list is **German Chancellor Angela Merkel who fetched the first spot for the sixth consecutive year**. Four Indians have been named in **Forbes list including Arundhati Bhattacharya**, Chair-Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), who stood at **25th position**. **Chanda Kochhar**, MD and CEO of ICICI Bank, was placed at **40th position**. **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, Founder-chair of Biocon Limited, was placed at **77th position**. **Shobhana Bhartia**, Chair, HT Media, was placed at 93rd position.

**Microsoft Asia** on 7 June 2016 launched its **Malware Infection Index 2016 (MII2016)**. The index identifies the key malware threats and ranks markets in Asia Pacific. The index MII2016, revealed Pakistan as the location with the highest malware encounters followed by Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam respectively. **India stands at No. 8 in region.**

**Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** on 10 June 2016 released the **2016 Global Peace Index (GPI)**. It is 10th edition of GPI that measured peace, its causes and its economic value during 2015 for 163 countries. **India ranked 141 among the 163 countries with 2.566 GPI score**. It showed an improvement in peace building as it held 143th rank in 2014 and 2015. The countries that topped the 2016 GPI for being most peaceful are Iceland (1), Denmark (2), Austria (3), New Zealand (4), Portugal (5), Czech Republic (6), Switzerland (7), Canada (8), Japan (9) and Slovenia (10). The least peaceful countries are Pakistan (153), Libya (154), Sudan (155), Ukraine (156), Central African Republic (157), Yemen (158), Somalia (159), Afghanistan (160), Iraq (161), South Sudan (162) and Syria (163).

The report titled **The Rise of Environmental Crime** was released by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and INTERPOL** on 4 June 2016. The report revealed that environmental crime grew up by 26 per cent larger than previous estimates of 2014.

With occupancy cost of \$149.71 (Rs 10,030) per sq ft, New Delhi's **Central Business District (CBD) of Connaught Place ranks as the seventh most expensive prime office market in the world**, said a new study. Connaught Place was ranked sixth in the previous CBRE Research's Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs bi-annual survey



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 21 June 2016 released a report entitled **World Investment Report 2016 – Investor Nationality: Policy Challenges**.

While the USA surpassed Hong Kong and China in terms of FDI inflows in 2015 with 380 billion US dollars, **India continues to be at the 10th position with 44 billion US dollars**.

**Highlights of World Investment Report 2016 FDI inflows:** Top 10 countries in terms of FDI inflows in decreasing order - The USA, China, Hong Kong, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Singapore, Brazil, Canada and India.

#### **Report with respect to India:**

- Globally, India was at the top tenth position in terms of FDI inflows in 2015. Compared to 35 billion US dollars in 2014, it received 44 billion US dollars of investments in 2015.
- India's and Bangladesh's FDI performance pushed inflows to South Asia to 50 billion US dollars, an increase of 22 per cent from 2014.
- India became the fourth largest recipient of investment in developing Asia.

The World Bank Group on 20 June 2016 released the mid-year edition of **India Development Update 2016: Financing Double-Digit Growth**. The report finds that India's economy expanded at a faster pace in FY 2016.

#### **Highlights of the Update**

- It reviews the current challenges in India's financial sector and analyzes some of the impacts of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission on Indian states.
- Agriculture, rural household consumption, private investments, and exports have not performed to potential.
- The oil bonanza most directly benefited the government, which for the first time in five years exceeded its revenue collection targets and used the resources to contain the fiscal deficit.
- Capital spending by the central government was ramped up.
- Urban households were the main drivers of growth in FY 2016.

**The World Economic Forum (WEF)** on 28 June 2016 released **the Human Capital Report 2016**. The WEF prepared the report in collaboration with Mercer, an American global human resource and related financial services consulting firm.

#### **Top three Countries in the Human Capital Index are:**

1. Finland (1)
2. Norway (2)
3. Switzerland (3)

#### **Bottom three Countries in the Human Capital Index are:**

1. Chad (128)

2. Yemen (129)
3. Mauritania (130)

### **India's position in the Human Capital Index**

**India occupied the 105th position among the 130 countries surveyed in the Index.** In 2015, India's position was 100th among the 124 countries surveyed in the Index.

The **United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** on 28 June 2016 released the State of the World's Children 2016 report. The report states that five countries will account for more than half of the global burden of under-five deaths. These countries are India (17 per cent), Nigeria (15 per cent), Pakistan (8 per cent), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (7 per cent) and Angola (5 per cent).

**Mercer's Cost of Living Survey 2016** was released on 22 June 2016. Asia dominates the top 5 of 2016 Cost of Living Rankings, with Hong Kong bagging the No. 1 spot, pushing Luanda, Angola to 2nd. As per the Mercer's 22nd annual Cost of Living Survey, top factors contributing to cost of expatriate packages for employees on international assignments are currency fluctuations, cost inflation for goods and services, and instability of accommodation prices.

### **Five Indian cities were also ranked in the list. They are:**

- Mumbai – Rank 82
- New Delhi – Rank 130
- Chennai – Rank 158
- Kolkata – 194
- Bangalore – Rank 180

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** was on 16 June 2016 named in the Hall of Shame list of 158 banking institutions that have invested billions of dollars in companies making cluster bombs. The list was prepared by Dutch campaign group PAX Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions report. State Bank of India (SBI) is the only Indian entity on the list that includes global giants like JP Morgan, Barclays, Bank of America and Credit Suisse.

Global organization EY on 10 May 2016 released the **Renewable energy country attractiveness index 2016**. The report reveals 40 countries on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities based on a number of indicators. Index was topped by the United States (US) and was followed by China at 2nd position and **India at 3rd position**.

**India is ranked at ninth position in crony-capitalism index** that was released by the Economist in the first week of May 2016. India has a crony sector wealth accounting for 3.4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP). As per the latest crony-capitalism index the non-crony sector wealth in India amounts to 8.3 per cent of the GDP. Russia topped the list and followed by Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

India has secured ninth position in the 2016 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index, a global management consulting firm today said, underlining that the country is “finally” embarking on a growth path that will see it “unlock its full potential”.

## Awards & Honors

President Pranab Mukherjee on 1 July 2016 presented the Dr. B. C. Roy National Awards for 2008, 2009 and 2010. The awards were presented at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on the occasion of Doctors' Day.

South African writer, filmmaker and photographer Lidudumalingani Mqomboti on 5 July 2016 won the 17th edition of prestigious Caine Prize 2016 for his short story Memories We Lost.

Captain Radhika Menon on 7 July 2016 was selected for the 2016 International Maritime Organization (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea. Captain Menon will also be the first female to receive the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

President Pranab Mukherjee on 11 July 2016 conferred the 51st Jnanpith Award on renowned Gujarati writer Dr. Raghuvir Chaudhari at Parliament Library Building, New Delhi. He was awarded with the India's highest literary honour for the year 2015.

Turkish musician Kudsi Erguner was on 10 July 2016 appointed as the UNESCO Artist for Peace by the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova.

India's contestant Rohit Khandelwal won the coveted Mister World 2016 title on 19 July 2016. The grand finale of Mr World 2016 was held at the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre in Southport, U.K. With this, Khandelwal has become the first Indian and Asian to win the Mr World title at the competition.

Advay Ramesh, a Class 10 student from Chennai, on 19 July 2016 won the prestigious Google Community Impact Award from Asia, a theme based award part of Google Science Fair 2016.

Nigerian journalist Didi Akinyelure on 19 July 2016 won the BBC World Service News Komla Dumor Award for 2016.

Raghavan Seetharaman, Qatar-based Indian banker, on 30 May 2016 was awarded the Green Economy Visionary award.

N Ramachandran, the president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was awarded the prestigious Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 1 June 2016. He was honoured for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement.

Deshauna Barber, a serving Army Reserve officer of United States (US), was on 5 June 2016 crowned as the Miss USA 2016 at the Miss USA competition 2016 held at the T-Mobile Arena off the Las Vegas Strip.

Warwick Manufacturing Group (WVG), at the University of Warwick, which was founded by renowned Indian-origin Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya, on 7 June 2016 was bestowed the Regius Professorship in Manufacturing by Queen Elizabeth II.

**Russian President Vladimir Putin** on 8 June 2016 signed a decree **awarding the Order of Friendship to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.**

India's bollywood actress **Priyanka Chopra** was **nominated for 2016 Teen Choice Awards** on 12 June 2016. She got her final nomination in the category of Choice TV Breakout Star.

**President Pranab Mukherjee** has been accorded the highest honour of Cote D'Ivoire "**Grand Cross National Order of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire**" by its President Alassane Ouattara on his maiden visit.

Canadian poet, novelist and environmental activist **Margaret Atwood** on 16 June 2016 was awarded the 2016 PEN Pinter Prize.

**Kannada Movie Thithi** in the third week of June 2016 won two awards - **Best Film and Best Script Writers - under the Asia New Talent Awards Category** at the 19th Shanghai International Film Festival.

**Mohun Bagan** on 15 June 2016 announced that it will honour **country's only Dronacharya football coach Syed Nayeemuddin with the Mohun Bagan Ratna.**

Six Indian World War I (WW-I) heroes on 20 June 2016 became part of **Britain's new digital archive.** The archive was launched as part of UK government's centenary celebrations of WW-I and aims to tell the inspiring stories of war heroes.

Indian Social Entrepreneur **Zubaida Bai** bags UN honour for corporate sustainability initiative.

IIT-Kanpur professor **Sanjay Mittal** in third week of June 2016 bagged the prestigious G D Birla Award for Scientific Research for 2015.

The 17th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2016 were presented on 25 June 2016 in Madrid, Spain.

#### **List of 2016 IIFA Awards**

- Best Film - Bajrangi Bhaijaan
- Best Director - Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Bajirao Mastani
- Best Actor in a Leading Role - Ranveer Singh for Bajirao Mastani

Best Actress in a Leading Role - Deepika Padukone for Piku

## **World News**

**Exercise RIMPAC 2016**, the Pacific military exercise, **began on 30 June 2016 at Hawaii with 26 nations participating in the war games that will cover the Hawaiian Island and southern California.** This year's exercise includes forces from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, **India**, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, China, Peru, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**The Interim Administrative Cell of the International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell)** and the **World Bank** on 30 June 2016 **signed declaration to promote solar energy globally**. The declaration was signed during the visit of the World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to India in June 2016.

**Juno** spacecraft of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on 4 July 2016 successfully entered Jupiter's orbit.

Scientists has named a newly discovered species of **tarantula (a big hairy spider) as Kankuamo Marquez** after the famed Colombian novelist and 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

**Russian President Vladimir Putin** in July 2016 **signed the "anti-terrorist" legislation** adopted by the lower and upper houses of parliament in June 2016. This anti-terror amendment is dubbed as **Big Brother** by US intelligence contractor turned privacy activist Edward Snowden.

The 2-day long **NATO Summit concluded on 9 July 2016 in Warsaw, Poland**. It was the 27th summit biannual summit of NATO since its inception in 1949.

**SpaceX** on 18 July 2016 launched its **unmanned Dragon cargo capsule to the International Space Station**, carrying a key piece of equipment that was lost in 2015 due to rocket explosion. The launch to the ISS is a resupply mission for NASA.

A Canadian university in July 2016 said that it will conduct the **world's first Zika vaccine test on humans**. The vaccine that is under development will be tested on humans in the near future. Until now, vaccines have been tested on mice.

**Turkey's** President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on 20 July 2016 declared a three-month state of emergency in the country. The emergency was declared in response to the failed coup that happened on 15 July 2016.

**Norway** in the first week of June 2016 **became the first country to prohibit deforestation**. On 26 May 2016, the Norwegian Parliament had pledged to make government's public procurement policy deforestation-free.

The U.N. General Assembly **elected Israel to chair one of its six major committees for the first time**, a decision denounced by the Palestinians and Arab nations.

China on 12 June 2016 launched its **23rd satellite in the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)**. The satellite launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province will support China's global navigation and positioning network

**Asia's largest technology trade show COMPUTEX** was started in **Taipei, Taiwan** on 31 May 2016. It is attracting more than 1600 companies from 30 countries to showcase their latest products.

The European Union (EU) and the US have signed the **"Umbrella Agreement"**, which puts in place a comprehensive high-level data protection framework for criminal law enforcement cooperation.

Asia's largest annual security forum **Shangri-La Dialogue** was inaugurated in Singapore on 3 June 2016.

**Airbus** on 1 June 2016 **displayed the world's first 3D-printed aircraft THOR** at the International Aerospace Exhibition in Schoenefeld.

**The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 7 June 2016 approved 1.5 billion US dollar loan to Sri Lanka.** IMF has already transferred 168 million US dollars as the first Instalment with immediate effect to support the country's economy.

**The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** members and partners on 6 June 2016 launched **Anaconda-16 Exercise, the biggest ever joint military exercise in Poland.**

**Florida-based Stonegate Bank** on 14 June 2016 issued a new credit card that will allow Americans to use it in **Cuba** during their visit to the country. The card will help the US visitors to avoid the Cuban 10-percent penalty on the dollar.

Chinese supercomputer **Sunway TaihuLight with 93 petaflop/second speed** was on 20 June 2016 declared as the world's fastest supercomputer. It was revealed in the TOP500 list of supercomputers released at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC) in Frankfurt, Germany.

Russia on 16 June 2016 launched the new **Project 22220 nuclear icebreaker dubbed 'Arktika'**. It was launched from the Baltic Shipyard in St. Petersburg – the second largest city of Russia. Project 22220 is **the world's largest and most powerful vessel of its kind** and it has been built at the Baltic Shipyard of the United Shipbuilding Corporation of Russia.

**Baltimore's National Aquarium** on 15 June 2016 announced its plan to create an Oceanside dolphin sanctuary. This will be first of its kind sanctuary for the marine mammals in North America.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on 17 June 2016 unveiled the iconic X-57 Hybrid Electric Research Plane nicknamed as **Maxwell**.

**People of Britain in a historic referendum on 24 June 2016 voted in favour of leaving European Union (EU).** The referendum 'to leave' or 'to be a member' of EU saw 51.9% votes in favour compared to 48.1% in against.

The Prime Minister of United Kingdom **David Cameron** on 24 June 2016 announced his resignation hours after the Brexit vote that favoured leaving the European Union (EU).

The scientists in June 2016 unveiled a microchip, named **KiloCore**, containing 1000 independent programmable processors. The chip has been designed by a team at the University of California, Davis, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

**China** in the fourth week of June 2016 launched its **first dark sky reserve in Ngari Prefecture**, Tibet. The purpose of the dark sky reserve is to limit light pollution and preserve sites for making astronomical observations.

**Nepal** on 24 June 2016 banned its citizens from working in strife-torn **Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya**. The decision was made at a cabinet meet after 13 Nepali security guards were killed in a Taliban suicide bombing in Kabul.

**Sweden** on 22 June 2016 inaugurated a test stretch of an electric road. With this, **the country has become one of the first countries in the world to conduct tests** with electric power for heavy transports on public roads.



The 2016 **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** summit concluded on 24 June 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

**China** on 29 June 2016 launched its second Shijian-16 series satellite. The satellite was carried by a Long March-4B rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

**The 42nd G7 Summit** was held at **Ise-Shima** in **Japan** for 2-days from 26 May to 27 May 2016.

**The United Nations World Humanitarian Summit concluded on 24 May 2016 in Istanbul**, Turkey. The summit was organised by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

A jury in San Francisco on 26 May 2016 cleared **Google of copyright infringement in a case brought by Oracle over Google's use of Java in Android**. Oracle was seeking damages of up to \$9 billion US dollars.

**Microsoft** and **Facebook** have agreed to jointly build a subsea cable across the Atlantic Ocean to meet growing demand for high-speed cloud and online services.

A team of scientists on 18 May 2016 successfully tested **hypersonic superjet technology as part of the Hypersonic International Flight Research Experimentation (HIFiRE) program**. It is one of the largest collaborative research programs between Australia and the USA.

The Air Forces of India and the U.S. on 13 May 2016 concluded the **2016 Red Flag aerial combat exercises at Alaska in the U.S.** A successor to the Cope Thunder exercise series, the main phase of the Red Flag exercises had commenced on 28 April 2016 with a mix of combat and support elements from the Indian Air Force (IAF), US Air Force (USAF) and US Navy (USN).

The term '**Social Fridge**' was in news in the second week of May 2016 with Argentina adopting it to feed the needy ones who are facing the hardship due to increase in job cuts and inflation in the country. The genesis of 'social fridge' or 'solidarity fridge' lies in the recent economic crisis of Europe during which countries like Spain and Germany saw the mushrooming of such fridges.

## Sports News

Indian shuttler **B Sai Praneeth** on 3 July 2016 **clinched the Canada Open Grand Prix Badminton Men's Singles title at Calgary**. On the other hand, men's doubles pair of **Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy** also grabbed Men's doubles title at the tournament.

**Indian footballer Gurpreet Singh Sandhu** in the first week of July 2016 **became the first Indian to play in Europa League**. Sandhu was named in Norwegian club Stabaek FC's squad for their Europa League qualifying match against Welsh Premier League side Connah's Quay Nomads FC.

**Sameer Mon**, the veteran sprinter of India, on 30 June 2016 won gold in 100 meter dash in 10.60 seconds at the 56th National Inter-state Senior Athletics Championships in Hyderabad. With this, Sameer, representing Manipur, also **became the fastest athlete in the country**.

Javeline thrower **Annu Rani** on 2 July 2016 bettered her national record with a 59.87m throw at the 56th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Hyderabad.

Para swimmer **Niranjan Mukundan** won eight medals, including three gold medals, at the **International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports (IWAS)** U-23 World Games in Prague, Czech Republic.

Indian gymnast **Dipa Karmakar** was named a '**Gymnaste de Classe Mondaile**' (World class gymnast) by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG). She is the first woman in the gymnast history to land the Produnova, one of the most dangerous vaults.

**Portugal** on 10 July 2016 **lifted the Euro 2016 football championship**. In the final clash played at SaintDenis in Paris, Portugal defeated France 1-0.

Wimbledon, the third Grand Slam of the 2016 tennis season concluded on 10 June 2016.

- In Men's Singles Title - **Andy Murray** (Great Britain) defeated Milos Raonic (Canada)
- In Women's Singles - **Serena Williams** (United States) defeated Angelique Kerber (Germany)
- Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut (France) won the Men's Doubles title
- **Serena Williams and Venus Williams won the Women's Doubles**

Serena equalled Steffi Graf's open era record of 22 Grand Slam titles.

India's Grand Master **Harika Dronavalli** on 14 July 2016 won the Fide Women's Grand Prix trophy in Chendu, China. This was the first Grand Prix Chess title for the Grand Master from Guntur.

**Vijender Singh**, the boxing star from India, on 16 July 2016 **clinched the WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title** at the Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi. To win the title, the six-footer from Haryana defeated former WBC European champion Kerry Hope.

A white tiger named '**Soohorang**' and an Asian black bear called '**Bandabi**' were unveiled as the two mascots for the **2018 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Pyeongchang** scheduled to begin from February 9 to 25.

The 73rd Senior National Squash Championship held from 12 July – 17 July 2016 concluded in Mumbai, Maharashtra. **Dipika Pallikal Karthik** (World no. 19) dethroned defending champion Joshna Chinappa 4-11 11-6 11-2 11-8 to regain the women's title. Top seed **Saurav Ghosal** defeated fourth seed Harinderpal Singh Sandhu 11-7 7-11 3-11 11-8 14-12 in five hard-fought games to claim the title.

**Abdul Wahid Tanveer** of Team TVS on 17 July 2016 clinched the 2016 MRF MoGrip FMSCI National Rally Championship for two-wheelers, as he extended his run to the fourth round at the MRF Rally of Coimbatore in the six-round competition.

**CEAT Cricket Awards 2016** were conferred on the players in a function of 20th edition of CEAT awards at Mumbai on 30 May 2016. Former India captain **Dilip Vengsarkar** was **conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award**. **England batsman Joe Root** was named as the **CEAT International Cricketer of the Year and also International batsman of the Year 2016** while India's test captain Virat Kohli was named **CEAT T20 Player of the Year**.

Indian **boxer Sonia Lather** on 27 May 2016 won the silver medal at the AIBA Women's World Championships in Astana.

Sri Lanka seam bowler **Nuwan Kulasekara** announced his retirement from Tests with immediate effect on 1 June 2015.

World number one **Novak Djokovic** on 5 June 2016 **won 2016 French Open title**. In the final clash in Paris, Djokovic defeated Britain's Andy Murray 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. ***It was Djokovic's first French Open title*** and 12th major title of his career.

**Garbine Muguruza** of Spain on 4 June 2016 **won the French Open Women's Singles tennis title at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France**. With this win, ***she also became the first Spanish woman to win a Grand Slam title since Sanchez-Vicario in Paris in 1998***. To win the title, she defeated the defending champion **Serena Williams** of the USA in straight sets 7-5, 6-4 in the final match.

The city of **Lucknow** will **host the junior men's hockey World Cup from December 8 to 18**, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced.

India's ace tennis player **Leander Paes and Martina Hingis** of Switzerland on 3 June 2016 won **the French Open Mixed Doubles title**.

**Tintu Luka**, the Rio Olympics-bound Indian track and field athlete, on 7 June 2016 won a silver medal in 800 meters in the Josef Odlozil Memorial Athletics Meet in Prague, Czech Republic.

Russian Tennis player **Maria Sharapova** was **suspended for two years** for testing positive for meldonium at the Australian Open.

The venerable **Eden Gardens ground will play host to the first ever day-night Test in the country** when India take on New Zealand later this year.

Olympic champion shooter **Abhinav Bindra** was on Friday ***chosen as the flagbearer of the Indian contingent at the Rio Games' opening ceremony on August 5***.

Ace Indian shuttler **Saina Nehwal** on 12 June 2016 **won the women's title of the Australian Open Super Series Badminton tournament**. In the final match played at Sydney, Saina defeated Chinese Sun Yu 11-21, 21-14, 21-19.

**The USA Women's Senior National Team** on 12 June 2016 **won gold at the FINA Women Water Polo World League Super Final**. The team defeated Spain 13-9 in the championship match in Shanghai, China.

**The Indian men's 4x400m relay team on 12 June 2016 created a new national record, clocking 3:02.17** at the International Sprint and Relay Teams Cup at Erzurum, Turkey.

Mercedes racing driver **Lewis Hamilton** of Britain on 12 June 2016 won the Formula 1 Canada Grand Prix title.

**Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the fourth wicketkeeper in the world to reach 350 dismissals in One-day Internationals**, while widening the gap further with his India predecessors.

**The Rio 2016** organising committee revealed the official slogan for the first Olympic and Paralympic Games in South America— **"A new world"** — while also unveiling the medals, 52 days from the start of the quadrennial extravaganza.

Australia on 18 June 2016 won Hero Hockey Champions Trophy 2016 at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in London. It defeated India 1-0 in a shoot-out.

### Individual Awards

- **Best player:** Tobias Hauke (Germany)
- **Best junior player:** Harmanpreet Singh (India)

The Indian mixed recurve team of Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das on 19 June 2016 won silver at the Archery World Cup in Antalya, Turkey.

International Cricket Council (ICC) on 19 June 2016 suspended Sri Lanka's fast bowler **Shaminda Eranga** from bowling. He was suspended after an assessment of his bowling action.

**Former captain Anil Kumble** was *appointed the Indian cricket team's head coach for a one-year tenure*.

**Indian pugilist Manoj Kumar** secured his berth for the forthcoming Rio Olympics after advancing to the semifinals of the men's light welter 64 Kg category at the World Qualification. With the win, Manoj *became the second boxer after Shiva Thapa (56kg) to make the cut for the Rio Games*.

**Russian hockey winger Artemi Panarin**, playing for the Chicago Blackhawks, on 22 June 2016 won the 2015-2016 Calder Memorial Trophy. The announcement was made by the US National Hockey League (NHL).

**Chile on 26 June 2016 won the Copa America football tournament**. In the final clash played at MetLife Stadium, Chile defeated Argentina 4-2 through penalties shootout. With this, *Chile also became the first team to win the Copa America in back to back years since Argentina in 1946 and 1947*.

### Awards

- Golden Ball: Alexis Sanchez (Chile)
- Golden Boot: Eduardo Vargas (Chile)
- Golden Glove award: Claudio Bravo (Chile)
- Fair Play Award: Argentina

**Lionel Messi**, the Barcelona star, on 26 June 2016 announced his plans to retirement from international football.

**Anju Bobby George and Pallela Gopichand** were named as the members of **Khelo India** on 26 June 2016. Khelo India is a national programme launched by the Union Government for the development of sports in the country.

**Shooter Jitu Rai** on 25 June 2016 won silver in the 10 m Air Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

**Indian sprinter Dutee Chand** on 25 June 2016 qualified for Rio Olympics in the women's 100metre event. She qualified in the games after meeting the qualification mark at 26th International Meeting G. Kosanov Memorial in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Dairy major **Amul** announced to sponsor the Indian contingent for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, to be held in August.

India's Ace shooter **Sanjeev Rajput** on 28 June 2016 clinched the silver medal for India in men's 50-metre rifle 3 position event of the ISSF World Cup in Baku, Ajerbaijan.

**The Argentina women's team** on 27 June 2016 won the **2016 Champions Trophy Hockey title**. To win the title, Argentina defeated the reigning World and Olympic champions the Netherlands 2-1.

## Important Days

1. National Doctors' Day was observed on 1 July
2. World Population Day was observed on 11 July
3. World Youth Skills Day 2016 observed on 15 July
4. Nelson Mandela International Day was observed across the world on 18 July
5. The Global Day of Parents was observed globally on 1 June
6. World Milk Day was observed across the world on 1 June
7. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression 2016 observed on June 4
8. World Environment Day (WED) was observed globally on 5 June
9. The World Oceans Day was observed globally on 8 June
10. The World Day Against Child Labour was observed globally on 12 June
11. Second International Albinism Awareness Day was observed on 13 June
12. World Blood Donors Day (WBDD) 2016 was observed on 14 June
13. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was observed globally on 15 June
14. The International Day of Yoga was observed across the world on 21 June
15. World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) 2016 was observed across the world on 17 June
16. First International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict was observed on 19 June
17. World Refugee Day was observed on 20 June
18. World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2016 was observed on 21 June
19. The United Nations Public Service Day was celebrated by the United Nations (UN) on 23 June
20. The International Widow's Day 2016 was celebrated across the world on 23 June
21. International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed on 26 June
22. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was observed on 26 June
23. Day of the Seafarer 2016 was observed across the world on 25 June
24. The International Olympic Day was celebrated on 23 June
25. The 10th National Statistics Day was celebrated on 29 June
26. **International Labour Day** was celebrated on 1 May
27. **The World Press Freedom Day** was on 3 May
28. **World Migratory Bird Day** (WMBD) observed on 10 May
29. **National Technology Day** was celebrated across India on 11 May
30. **World Hypertension Day** 2016 observed on 17 May
31. **International Day of Families** was observed across the world on 15 May
32. **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** (WTISD) was observed on 17 May

33. **International Day to End Obstetric Fistula** was observed across the world on 23 May
34. **International Day for Biological Diversity** (IBD) observed on 22 May
35. The **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers** was observed on 29 May
36. **World No Tobacco Day** (WNTD) was observed globally on 31 May

## Books & Authors

1. Ringside With Vijender authored by **Rudraneil Sengupta** released
2. Who Moved My Interest Rate? authored by **Duvvuri Subbarao** the former Governor of RBI
3. Courage & Commitment: An Autobiography by **Margaret Alva**
4. The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable authored by **Amitav Ghosh**
5. The Unseen Indira Gandhi authored by **Dr KP Mathur**
6. A Life in Diplomacy authored by **MK Rasgotra**
7. **Sania Mirza** pens autobiography "**Ace against Odds**"
8. Shashi Kapoor - the Householder, the Star authored by **Aseem Chhabra**
9. India vs Pakistan: Why Can't we just be Friends? by **Husain Haqqani**
10. Chaos and Caliphate: Jihadis and the West in the Struggle for the Middle East by **Patrick Cockburn**
11. The Drowned Detective by **Neil Jordan**
12. My Favourite Nature Stories authored by **Ruskin Bond**
13. The World Outside My Window by **Ruskin Bond**
14. A Call to Mercy: Hearts to Love, Hands to Serve by **Mother Teresa**
15. Book Gujarat Files: Anatomy of a Cover Up authored by **Rana Ayyub**

## Obituaries

1. Acclaimed Iranian director **Abbas Kiarostami** dies
2. Former French Prime Minister **Michel Rocard** dies
3. Eminent Marathi literary scholar **Ramchandra Chintaman Dhere** dies
4. Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner **Elie Wiesel** dies
5. Writer and futurist **Alvin Toffler** dies
6. **Michael Cimino**, director of film *The Deer Hunter*, died
7. **Noel Neill**, first actor to play *Lois Lane* in *Superman*, dies
8. Acclaimed Iranian director **Abbas Kiarostami** dies
9. **Amal Dutta**, former India player and first professional full-time football coach of the country, died
10. Eminent Pakistani philanthropist **Abdul Sattar Edhi** died
11. Prize-winning world historian **William H McNeill** dies at 98
12. India's Olympic Silver Medalist **Joe Antic** passed away
13. Legendary singer **Mubarak Begum** passes away in Mumbai
14. Hockey legend **Mohammed Shahid** dies
15. Oldest and last **Babri** litigant **Hashim Ansari** passes away
16. Noted comedian **Razak Khan** passed away
17. Tamil actor-director **Balu Anand** died
18. India's first Mr Universe **Manohar Aich** died at 104
19. **Muhammad Ali**, the All-time Greatest of Boxing, dies at 74
20. Veteran actor **Sulabha Deshpande** passed away



21. Chess Grandmaster **Viktor Korchnoi** died
22. **Amber Gurung**, composer of Nepali National Anthem, passed away
23. Veteran Journalist **KK Katyal** passed away
24. **Gordie Howe**, legendary ice hockey player, nicknamed Mr. Hockey died
25. Veteran journalist **Inder Malhotra** passed away
26. Noted Playwright and Actor **Achyut Lahkar** passed away
27. **Donald Carr**, former England Cricket captain, dies aged 89
28. Renowned Hindi writer **Mudrarakshasa** passed away
29. American Literary Translator Gregory Rabassa dies
30. Veteran Odia actress Manimala Devi passes away
31. Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Anjan Dutta passed away
32. Noted Telangana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah dies
33. Renowned Educationalist Jeppiaar passes away
34. Neil O'Brien, India's first quizmaster, dies
35. Noted Malayalam theatre artist Kavalam Narayana Panicker passes away
36. Xerxes Sapur Desai, the man who founded Titan Co Ltd, died on 27 June 2016

37. Senior artist K.G. Subramanyan passes away
38. Naga rebel leader Isak Chishi Swu dies
39. Bud Spencer, Italian actor and filmmaker, passed away

### Coming Soon

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